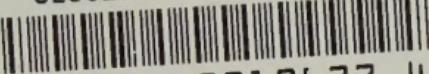


INSPIRATION
AND IDEALS
BY GRENVILLE
KLEISER

• •

CLOSED COL

UNITY LIBRARY & ARCHIVES
Inspiration and ideals; thought
CLOSED BJ 1581 K7 1917



0 0051 0010677 4

INSPIRATION AND IDEALS

BY GRENVILLE KLEISER

How to Speak in Public

How to Develop Self-Confidence in Speech
and Manner

How to Argue and Win

Humorous Hits and How to Hold an
Audience

How to Develop Power and Personality in
Speaking

Great Speeches and How to Make Them

How to Read and Declaim

Correspondence Course in Public Speaking

Correspondence Course in Practical English

Correspondence Course in Business Success

The World's Great Sermons

Talks on Talking

Complete Guide to Public Speaking

Inspiration and Ideals

How to Build Mental Power

Fifteen Thousand Useful Phrases

FUNK & WAGNALLS COMPANY
NEW YORK AND LONDON

~~CLOSED COLLECTION~~

INSPIRATION AND IDEALS

THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY

By GRENVILLE KLEISER

*Formerly Instructor in Public Speaking at Yale
Divinity School, Yale University*



FUNK & WAGNALLS COMPANY

NEW YORK AND LONDON

1917

UNITY SCHOOL LIBRARY

Unity Village

64063

COPYRIGHT, 1917, BY

FUNK & WAGNALLS COMPANY

[*Printed in the United States of America*]

Copyright under the Articles of the Copyright Convention
of the Pan-American Republics and the United States

August 11, 1910

Published, August, 1917

B
1581
.K7

TO

ELIZABETH

MY CONSTANT INSPIRATION

THIS BOOK IS AFFECTIONATELY

INSCRIBED

Every man keeps within himself an indestructible record of his own life.

—HAMILTON WRIGHT MABIE.

Nothing relieves and ventilates the mind like a resolution.

—JOHN BURROUGHS.

Do you ask to be the companion of nobles? Make yourself noble, and you shall be. Do you long for the conversation of the wise? Learn to understand it, and you shall hear it.

—RUSKIN.

The ideal life is in our blood and never will be lost. Sad will be the day for any man when he becomes contented with the thoughts he is thinking and the deeds he is doing—where there is not forever beating at the doors of his soul some great desire to do something larger, which he knows that he was meant and made to do.

—PHILLIPS BROOKS.

FOREWORD

THOUGHT rules mankind. Inspiration and aspiration must precede all great and enduring achievement. Ideals light the way to industry. Cheerfulness has a directly beneficial influence upon health. Faith is the foundation of all large enterprise. Truth is the eternal quest of the human mind. Love is still the greatest thing in the world.

The purpose of this book is to give help and inspiration in right thinking and right living, and to suggest ideals which will make for material and spiritual welfare.

The author trusts that these thoughts, which he has found personally helpful, will stimulate and sustain many a fellow traveler on the journey along life's pathway.

GRENVILLE KLEISER.

*New York City,
June, 1917.*

Live Your Noblest Life To-day

JANUARY ONE

BEGIN this day and year with clear purpose, strong resolve, and supreme faith. Concentrate upon essentials. Put your high ideals into actual deeds and **live your largest and noblest life to-day.** Do your work well. The best reward for work well done will be greater work and a larger sphere of usefulness. Rid yourself of everything which in the slightest degree retards your best progress. **Closely scrutinize your thought habits** and be alert to every opportunity for self-improvement. Keep your mind upon a high level of constructive thought, realize the priceless value of time and opportunity, and determine to make this day count toward real and permanent achievement. **Success is your birthright.**

The Supremacy of God's Law

JANUARY TWO

RIIGHT desires and aspirations bring increased happiness. When you begin the day with a renewed appetite for work and achievement, the world assumes a new and wonderful attractiveness. **There are no dull times for an upward-looking mind.** Your life will be rich and productive in the proportion that you begin each day with right intention and apply yourself with diligence to the task before you. Success and happiness are not mysteries, but simply the results of obedience to divine law. As you study this law and conform your life to it in all your thoughts and desires, you will experience a sense of increasing harmony, happiness, and prosperity. **God's law is supreme, inexorable, eternal.**

Standards of Thought and Conduct

JANUARY THREE

TO be strong and true; to be generous in praise and appreciation of others; to impute worthy motives even to enemies; to give without expectation of return; to practise humility, tolerance, and self-restraint; to make the best use of time and opportunity; to keep the mind pure and the judgment charitable; to extend intelligent sympathy to those in distress; to cultivate quietness and non-resistance; to speak little and listen much; to adhere always to a high standard of thought, purpose, and conduct; to grow in grace, goodness, and gratitude; to seek truth and righteousness; to work, love, pray, and serve daily; to aspire greatly, labor cheerfully, and take God at His word —this is to travel heavenward.

Choose a Definite Life Purpose

JANUARY FOUR

WHEN you have chosen a great purpose, and are certain you have chosen well and wisely, concentrate upon it. Bend your best energies to it. Guard yourself against subtle and innumerable influences that tend to divert you from it. Make that single great purpose **the definite aim of your daily life.** Be enthusiastic about it. Your thought and time will be solicited by many influences, and you will do well to take special means to protect yourself against them. Make your resolutions so clear and firm that nothing can lure you from your chosen path of purpose and duty. Substitute doing for dreaming, and achievement for wishing. The great things of the world are done by men who **specialize and concentrate.**

The Greatest Thing in the World

JANUARY FIVE

I AM the secret of health and happiness. I am the inspiration of youth and the solace of old age. I am always available. I am invincible and eternal. I am the antidote for crime, poverty, cruelty and fear. I am the conqueror of disease, despotism, and despair. I am the healer of hatred, sin, and injustice. I am the co-partner of truth and righteousness. **I am the remedy for the world's wants, wars, and woes.** I am the builder of churches, chapels, and cathedrals. I am the guide of preachers, prophets, and poets. I am the creator of lofty music, pictures, and architecture. I am the handservant of faith, mercy, and charity. I am the fulfilling of the law. I am the greatest thing in the world. **I am Love.**

Your Mental Attitude an Asset

JANUARY SIX

MENTAL good-will is a valuable asset. People around you are quick to read your attitude of thought toward them. Inner thoughts and feelings are communicated in ways other than by the spoken word. The good thoughts you think regarding others are a silent but significant force in drawing people to you and in inspiring in them the same good thoughts toward you. **Mental good-will is reciprocal.** The good thoughts you send out to others will return to you multiplied. The quality of your thoughts determines the quality of your personal character. Let your daily aim be to have as many pleasant thoughts as possible, and as you persevere in this practise **your life will be enriched** and men will be glad to know you.

The Practical Value of Goodness

JANUARY SEVEN

GOOD is constructive; evil is destructive. Good elevates, encourages, and sustains; evil saddens, enslaves, and kills. Good builds churches, hospitals, monuments, cathedrals; evil sets up saloons, gambling-houses, and dens of sin. Good paints great pictures, carves noble statues, and designs lofty architecture; evil darkens and blasts men's lives. Good produces the greatest statesmen, prophets, preachers, poets, and philanthropists; evil makes drunkards, thieves, murderers, and social degenerates. Good inspires faith, integrity, love, and truth; evil produces suspicion, dishonesty, hate, and falsehood. Good is eternal and indestructible; evil is temporary and self-annihilating.

Good is of God, since God is good.

Make Your Resolutions Strong

JANUARY EIGHT

THE remedy for your broken resolutions is to make them again and again, each time stronger and more insistent. Set them down in writing as daily reminders of what you ought to do. Realize clearly how such resolutions will promote your personal interests. **Renew and reiterate your resolutions** as many times as may be necessary to actualize them in your life. Many men know better than they do. They realize their lack of will, initiative, and resoluteness. You have high conceptions and ideals, which you can materialize if you rightfully apply your powers of decision, firmness, and perseverance. Review each night what you have actually done during the day, and **resolve to do still greater things.** Intelligent self-examination is essential to great progress.

Cultivate Silence and Stillness .

JANUARY NINE

YOU grow your best thoughts in silence, solitude, and meditation. When you relax and think deeply, you are giving your inmost powers their best opportunity to disclose themselves. Constant action and expression are direct drafts upon your mental capital. To continue growing and accumulating useful ideas, you must have frequent times of mental relaxation, concentration, and silence. Beware the modern tendency to hurry and waste. The time you give to quiet and intelligent meditation will repay you well. **Cultivate quietness, poise, and deliberateness.** It is at times of inward stillness that you can best hear the voice of God and learn His will. It is then that you most clearly realize the Divine presence and power.

Rise to Your Highest Possibilities

JANUARY TEN

BE your present work great or small the important thing is to do it well. Good work always confers a distinct benefit upon the worker. Greatness of spirit can make a little task great. Your visions of power and achievement are intimations of what you can be. They summon you to larger and more earnest effort. However well or much you have already done, you can do still better and more. **Immense possibilities are before you**, and the field of splendid opportunity constantly widens as you persevere in honest purpose. Attempt the great, pursue the great, and ultimately you will achieve the great. Rise to your possibilities and know that through patient and persistent effort you can surely reach your **rightful place in the world.**

Good is Available to You Now

JANUARY ELEVEN

GOD is love and you are made in his image. The more love you express in your daily life, the more you reflect God. The better you conform your mind to truth and righteousness the nearer you live to God. The highest happiness will come to you when you realize the imminence of God and the all-inclusive nature of His goodness. **Resolve this day** to keep your thoughts in harmony with divine **love, truth, and goodness**. Thus you will steadily progress toward the better, larger, fuller life which is your rightful heritage. God is good and God is everywhere, hence **good is available to you always**. There can be no better way than God's way since He is supreme. For your highest standard of character and conduct you must go to God.

Grasp Your Great Opportunities

JANUARY TWELVE

THE chief purpose of your education is so to train your faculties that you may have the greatest opportunities for usefulness and happiness. This is the test of your growth and progress. If each succeeding day finds you doing more useful work, with increased joy and interest, then you may be sure you are traveling in the right direction. Life does not stand still. Where there is no progress there is disintegration. To-day **a thousand doors of enterprise** are open to you inviting you to useful work. To live at this time is an inestimable privilege, and a sacred obligation devolves upon you to **make right use of your opportunities.** To-day is the day in which to attempt and achieve something worth while.

Look to God for Everything

JANUARY THIRTEEN

TAKE no anxious thought for the morrow, since God supplies you now and always with everything essential to your welfare. He speaks to your consciousness, and through this direct channel supplies you with **an inexhaustible store of spiritual thoughts.** As you assimilate these ideas and apply them in your daily life, you will become more deeply conscious of your alliance with the source of all that is good, true, and eternal. When you delight to do only the will of God, and to keep His law uppermost in your heart, you will have a foretaste of heaven. **Look to God for everything.** Look upward with an earnest desire for guidance, and there will come to you a revelation and benediction from the Giver of every good and perfect gift.

Be Worthy of Your High Calling

JANUARY FOURTEEN

IF you are misunderstood or maligned, hold fast to your principles of truth and right. Remember that these are invincible against the assaults of any enemy. **Anchor your soul to God's truth** and you will stand sure and steadfast through storm and tempest. Give to God your constant gratitude, and acknowledge Him in all your ways. Tho men persecute you, the promise forever holds true that nothing can possibly harm you so long as you are **faithful to divine law**. God will strengthen, help, and uphold you with His righteousness. His law is perfect, His testimony sure, His statutes right, and His commandments pure. Let the spirit of truth guide you to-day and always, that you may **fulfil your great destiny** and prove worthy of your high calling.

Appropriate the Good for Yourself

JANUARY FIFTEEN

THE way to health, harmony, and happiness is primarily mental.

What you regularly encourage and develop in your mind determines your character and destiny. Hence the vital importance of closely scrutinizing every thought which seeks a permanent place in your mental world. For this reason be fastidious in your choice of books, and as far as possible confine your reading to the best authors. It is your privilege to share in the great thoughts of the world's great minds, and to have your life **stimulated and ennobled** by their supreme example. Help, encouragement, healing, and inspiration are at your ready service, but you must appropriate them for yourself. **The infinite supply of good** is sufficient to meet all your needs.

How to Build Health and Happiness

JANUARY SIXTEEN

KEEP your mind constantly open to helpful suggestion. Cultivate an expectant, hopeful, unselfish attitude toward the world about you. Emphasize the strong, vigorous, uplifting elements of your nature. **R**ealize the value and power of personal faith in building and maintaining vitality. Affirm and reiterate such inspiring thoughts as purity, power, holiness, and health. Cultivate confidence, quietness, serenity, and wholesomeness. Every good thought you think adds to your mental resources and reserves. **R**ight mental habits are essential to perfect health. Fill your imagination with pictures of nobility and courage. Daily prayer and spiritual meditation are wonderful therapeutic agencies in the building of health and happiness.

How Great Ideas Are Conceived

JANUARY SEVENTEEN

THE practise of daily meditation is one of the most effective means for developing clear and accurate thinking. Concentration of mental energy tends to bring into view deep and hidden thoughts, and **thus are great ideas conceived and great projects planned.** The mind is an informing and originating force, and the sphere in which all true culture must begin. Diligent and daily mental training is essential to the enlargement and enrichment of your life. Intuitions, desires, and aspirations are silent sculptors fashioning character and conduct. **Reserve a definite time each day for quiet thinking,** for the cultivation of incentives to higher and nobler purpose and living. Your superior mental powers impose upon you a responsibility to make the most of them.

Cultivate Fineness of Life

JANUARY EIGHTEEN

DISCREETLY keep most of your radical opinions to yourself.

When with other people be a listener a large part of the time. Be considerate in every word and act. Never descend. Cultivate tolerance toward others. Patiently listen to opinions which oppose yours. It is a wise thing never to boast, never to speak of yourself unless it is imperative, never to speak ill of another.

Be slow to pass judgment. Examine and judge the contents of your own mind rather than that of others. Give preference to pleasant subjects. **Rule your moods.** Resist the tendency to say clever things. The best evidence of your culture is the tone and temper of your conversation. Charitable judgment will help you to progress most rapidly in love, gentleness, and sympathy.

Aim to Be Great to Yourself

JANUARY NINETEEN

LET your work speak for itself. Excuse is weakness. Do your best, and let the world make its own appraisement. You are what you are. Explanations seldom explain. Cultivate a fine sense of independence that will sustain you in the midst of the crowd as well as in solitude. When you know you are right you can afford to be independent. The greatest asset you can possess is a high personal character, based upon right thought and conduct. **Be greater to yourself than you are to other men.** Shun doing in secret what you would not do openly. Devote a part of each day to self-examination and self-culture. Let your first aim be to **merit your own respect**, and it will naturally follow that you will have the respect of other men.

You Are Responsible to God

JANUARY TWENTY

DOWN deep in every human soul is a hidden longing, impulse, and ambition to do something fine and enduring. This secret intimation from within is in truth a summons to rise above the dead level of mediocrity and to use your powers to large purpose. As you listen to this inner voice and heed its divine command, you will not be content with a life of commonplace endeavor, but will set your eyes upon **some great and lofty purpose.** There will come to you a new and wonderful revelation of the exalted powers placed in your keeping, and a deeper realization of **your personal responsibility to God.** He has endowed you with supreme gifts as well as with the faculties to use them aright. If you are willing, great things are possible to you.

Be an Intelligent Optimist

JANUARY TWENTY-ONE

THINK optimistically and constructively. If anything seems to be wrong, take a brisk walk in the open air, breathe deeply, and affirm uplifting thoughts of ambition, strength, and prosperity. Cultivate the society of cheerful people. Read only pleasant subjects. Look for the best and highest things in life, and **resolve to be an intelligent optimist.** Health, happiness, and prosperity are primarily mental. Repeated right thought will ultimately produce right conditions in your life. All right thought emanates from God. Open your mind to Him and He will fill it with His eternal truth. The present moment is the time to take God's truth as it is offered to you, and to use it for **your immediate growth and advancement.**

Get a Right Idea of Values

JANUARY TWENTY-TWO

CULTIVATE fine taste and discrimination in your choice of things. Get a right idea of values. Material possessions that you do not need and can not use may be only an encumbrance. Let your guiding rule be not how much but how good. A thing you do not want is dear at any price. Avoid surplusage. Have a regular time for examination and elimination. **Assimilate as you accumulate.** Choose things that express your own individuality. You must possess your things or they will possess you. Look for quality rather than for quantity. Unnecessary possessions bring unnecessary care and responsibility. Excess is wasteful. Don't burden yourself with the superfluous. Have an occasional stock-taking and eliminate unsparingly.

Culture Brings Freedom of Life

JANUARY TWENTY-THREE

CULTURE is **growth**, not accumulation. It is enlightenment and discipline acquired by mental and moral training. Culture has to do with quality, not quantity. Culture is never loud, boastful, conspicuous, nor self-assertive. It expresses itself in poise, gentleness, considerateness, and self-control. Culture is conscious of its powers, confident of its habits and principles, and is always faithful to its own dictates. **Culture never seeks approbation or applause.** It is indifferent to censure, impervious to popular clamor, and is equally self-possess in society or solitude. True culture, which comes mainly through books, companionship, and meditation, makes for **breadth, richness, fulness, and freedom of life.**

Have Daily Communion with God

JANUARY TWENTY-FOUR

TRUE happiness depends upon close alliance with God, dependence upon Him, and obedience to Him. The delusion of worldly honor, the emptiness of riches, the stupidity of selfishness, and the blindness of mere material fortune are manifest on all sides. All the enjoyments which the world can give are as nothing compared with the priceless riches and happiness which are derived from **close daily communion with God.** It is your great privilege to share bountifully in this spiritual feast, to receive God's thoughts for your continual spiritual nourishment, and, what is of transcendent value, to have the constant assurance of your divine sonship. **To emulate the life of Christ** is to keep very close to the heart of God.

Dwell Often Upon Your Mercies

JANUARY TWENTY-FIVE

ONE of the secrets of a happy life is to dwell much upon your likes and to ignore your dislikes. If your mind tends to criticism, fault-finding, and disapproval, it will readily find occasion every hour of the day. There are unfortunate temperaments which dwell habitually upon the disagreeable aspects of life. The result is a mental condition of perpetual fretfulness and unrest. It is possible for you to form the habit of directing your thoughts to **pleasant, agreeable, helpful subjects**, so that your mind will be in a uniform condition of peace, poise, and healthy optimism. As you dwell upon the best aspects of life, you will find your own life becoming happier, better, and more productive. **Dwell upon your mercies**, not upon your miseries.

Be Grateful for Opportunities

JANUARY TWENTY-SIX

HE enjoys the sunrise most who walks through the crisp morning air and climbs the hill-top, not he who looks lazily from his bed through a closed window. Anything which comes without effort is not likely to be adequately appreciated. Blest, therefore, is the man who plans, toils, perseveres, faces disappointments, surmounts obstacles, and **pushes onward with indomitable courage and determination.** Character, reliability, truth, honor, heroism, self-mastery, success, and independence, are products of self-denial and industry. Let no man be discouraged because he has not been born in wealth and luxury, but let him be **grateful for the opportunity to work and serve.** There is nothing that can quite take the place of personal effort and achievement.

Know and Do the Will of God

JANUARY TWENTY-SEVEN

SOONER or later you must go to spiritual sources for real satisfaction and happiness. True confidence and stability rest upon truth and righteousness. **God ever speaks to a receptive mind.** A right knowledge of spiritual truth will give you a keen and grateful sense of the joy of living. The only enduring power is spiritual, and the only foundation upon which to build your life securely is that of righteousness. **Keep yourself in tune with the infinite,** and harmony and happiness will be yours. Your common intelligence tells you not to endanger your heritage of heavenly happiness for what the world offers by way of money or other material possessions. Let the supreme purpose of your daily life be to **know and to do the will of God.**

Keep Your Life Sane and Happy

JANUARY TWENTY-EIGHT

KEEP your mind filled with strong, constructive, productive thoughts. Begin each day with a clear mental picture of what you most desire to accomplish, then earnestly work to that end. Every day there should be **something greatly conceived and achieved.** The more resolutely you stand upon the affirmative side of truth and righteousness, the more rapidly and surely will these supreme qualities be developed in your character and life. You can not too often reiterate to yourself the importance of **right planning, right thinking, and right doing.** Waste no time on antipathies and antagonisms. Give your thought principally to practical things. Right interests and activities will keep your life sane and happy. Substitute performance for procrastination.

Daily Practise Deep Breathing

JANUARY TWENTY-NINE

DEVOTE some time daily to energetic, outdoor **deep breathing exercise.** As you walk, draw in deep draughts of air, expand the abdomen, and exhale fully and deeply. Do this with vigor and spirit. When you retire at night, lie flat on the bed, draw your legs up slowly, then let them slide down lazily and heavily. Roll over loosely, toss the arms and hands and let them drop down of their own weight. **Relax all over.** Deep breathing should be practised daily until it becomes an unconscious habit. Many people use only the upper part of the lungs in breathing. The whole breathing apparatus, including lungs and abdomen, should be brought into play in proper deep breathing. This is highly **essential to good health.**

Keep Your Mental Kingdom Holy

JANUARY THIRTY

IT becomes more and more apparent that health, harmony, and happiness depend primarily upon thought habits. The predisposing cause of sickness is sin, and sin is thought in action. True harmony arises from right adjustment of thought. **Happiness is the product of habitual right thinking.** You carry with you wherever you go your own thought world, wherein you determine day by day your degree of health, harmony, and happiness. Whatever your present condition or environment may be, you can perform a seeming miracle by changing your thought. Your thought world is a sacred place and your exclusive possession. Nothing can invade it without your consent. **Keep your mental kingdom holy and you will be whole.**

Realize Your Inexhaustible Power

JANUARY THIRTY-ONE

THE gift of patience is akin to genius. To be able to work and wait, knowing that right results inevitably follow right efforts, is a true sign of greatness. Life is discipline. Constant vigilance is the price of real growth. Life is a great school for study and experiment, observation, enterprise, and achievement. Consciousness of superior power is not necessarily egotism. Your mental assets should be as real a possession to you as your money, lands, or other material property. **Realize your inexhaustible power**, then patiently apply it to a great and worthy purpose. Be more intent upon the quality of your work, than the immediacy of reward or recognition. The real joy of work is in **patient and perfect performance**.

Happiness is a Mental Habit

FEBRUARY ONE

THREE are two kinds of optimists—wise, and otherwise. The intelligent optimist not only believes things will be right, but works diligently to make them so. He thinks everything is ordered for the best, that the world tends inevitably toward the good, the true, and the beautiful. The disposition of the optimist to look only for the best in life gives him increased advantage in finding what he looks for. **Happiness is a habit**, not a locality. Optimism is intimately bound up with great achievement. The true optimist gets the most out of life for himself, while augmenting the faith and courage of his associates. Intelligent optimism will make one an enthusiast, and **enthusiasm is the driving force** in all great enterprise.

The Kingdom of God is Within You

FEBRUARY TWO

YOU have been created to be good, healthy, happy, and prosperous. You have within your consciousness **all the requisites for present and eternal happiness.** You possess within yourself all the power necessary for great usefulness and enduring achievement. You are made in the perfect likeness of God, who is Mind, Spirit, Life, Love, and Truth. Fully realize and apply **the truth of your divine heritage,** and you will be free from evil, sickness, discord, and everything unlike good. Fill your mind completely and constantly with thoughts of purity, faith, love, and righteousness. **Seek first to know the Kingdom of God,** and health, harmony, and happiness will be added unto you, for **the Kingdom of God is within you.**

Influence People by Your Example

FEBRUARY THREE

ELIMINATE resistance and resentment from your mind.

Know them as subtle mental poisons. If things go wrong, look first for the cause in yourself. Be quick to acknowledge to yourself your own shortcomings, and make haste to correct them. Take time to **improve your own nature**, and seek to influence other people by your example rather than by your criticism. In the face of unjust opposition, violent argument, or personal abuse, hold yourself in poise, knowing that truth is infallible. A genial temper, broad charity, and quiet equanimity, under all circumstances, will give you mastery of yourself and the situation. **The silent and unconscious example of high thinking** will do more on your part to help others than many words and much counsel.

Cultivate Gentleness and Courtesy

FEBRUARY FOUR

THREE is special need for **gentle manners and courtesy in the home.** The familiarity of family intercourse may unconsciously lead to laxity in kindness, willingness, and considerateness. Habits of self-restraint, intelligent tact, and self-sacrifice are frequently needed where people of varied tastes and temperaments are in intimate daily contact. It is remarkable what one member of a household can do by means of **right personal example.** When you apply the qualities of sincerity, graciousness, courtesy, cheerfulness and affectionate regard toward those of your family circle, you have set in motion an influence which can not be adequately estimated. **Love always wins,** and it is still the greatest thing in the world.

Your Rightful Place in the World

FEBRUARY FIVE

YOUR present and future welfare depends mainly upon yourself. Do not look outside for help. Do not assume that the influence of others in your behalf would enable you to do better or accomplish more. Realize that you have within yourself all the power, ability, energy, and resources for building a highly successful life. There is one great gift which is distinctively your own, and it is your profound duty to discover, develop, and use it. The vital thing is not whether you have many talents, but the practical use you are making of **your one great talent**. Let this inspiring thought give strength to your will and purpose to your daily work, and so ultimately lead you to **your rightful place in the world**.

You Have Unlimited Resources

FEBRUARY SIX

DO not over-plan, nor be unduly anxious. Submit all to God and obey his guiding voice implicitly. Let the prayer "Thy will be done," be a true petition of your heart. The fruit of the spirit is joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. From this sublime statement it is obvious that as you cultivate and express these qualities in your daily life, **you will be close to God** and free from the possibility of condemnation. Worry is a form of weakness, and a tacit acknowledgment of self-limitation and lack of confidence. To live a large life, you must have large stores of personal courage. The realization that **you have unlimited resources** will fortify you for the most formidable enterprises.

Prize the Quick-Passing Moments

FEBRUARY SEVEN

OTHE waste of golden moments! Throngs of men and women drifting hither and thither, aiming at nothing, going nowhere. See the crowds of restless, uncertain, wandering people—great unceasing procession of tired and disappointed humanity. As for you, be well advised and **fill your daily life with definite purpose.** Know where you are going, what you wish to attain, and the precise means you are using to reach the desired goal. Make use of the valuable moments so prodigally wasted by the unthinking. Realize how well-spent minutes multiply into hours of productive effort. Prize the quick-passing moments for their personal value. You have all the time there is, and **now is the opportune time to do the best that is in you.**

Make Your Thoughts Work for You

FEBRUARY EIGHT

PUT your principles into practise. What you do, not what you say, is the essential thing. Stimulate your sluggish ideas and ideals into action. Dormant aspirations are of value only as they are translated into acts. **Make your best thoughts work for you.** Transform your desires into deeds, your resolutions into results. Your personal powers are made up chiefly of principles, ideals, desires, and resolutions. The specific way in which you use these powers in your daily life largely determines your degree of success. Give earnest attention to these vital things, apply them intelligently, and you will go forward to inevitable achievement. **Success will be yours** precisely in the degree that you use your powers aright.

Make Your Daily Life Constructive

FEBRUARY NINE

LE~~T~~ your daily self-examination be searching and severe. If you are subject to such faults as anger, passion, impulsiveness, or resentment, examine each of them separately and formulate definite ways to overcome them. At the close of each day **submit yourself to a rigid self-examination** to detect such faults. This review of the day should be thorough and deliberate. Know precisely what high motives you have disregarded, what good resolutions broken, what admonitions of conscience you have stifled. Acknowledgment and confession are **true means of spiritual attainment**. Be quite sure that your life is positive, constructive, and purposeful. Make it your earnest aim to do something daily which you can measure in tangible results.

Dedicate Yourself to High Ideals

FEBRUARY TEN

DEDICATE your life to the service of God. You can carry this lofty spirit into all your daily activities, whatever their nature may be. If it is well to serve God at any time, then it is well to serve Him at all times. If you should use one of your gifts for the honor of God, then you should use all your gifts for this great purpose. If it is desirable that you should practise purity, wisdom, and righteousness some of the time, surely it is equally desirable that you practise these great virtues all the time. There can be no higher purpose to your life than to **serve God at all times**, in every thought, word, and act. It is your privilege to do this from this day forth. God waits on your answer. **Think on these things.**

Press on to Worthy Achievement

FEBRUARY ELEVEN

YOUR speech and manner proclaim you. Be judicious in your choice and use of words. Make the most of your powers and abilities. Let your thought be uniformly deep, dignified, and deliberate, that these qualities may unconsciously manifest themselves in your outward manner. Have a proper sense of self-respect, and **show it in your voice, speech, and personality.** There will never be a better time than the present to make the most of yourself and to initiate plans for a larger life. **Go forward with new purpose, confident of ultimate success.** Launch your best powers now, without further delay, knowing that earnest and diligent effort will surely bring adequate reward. Look away to the heights, and **press on to worthy achievement.**

Daily Progress in Self-Culture

FEBRUARY TWELVE

LET these questions stimulate you to the highest effort: What is the best way for me to spend the hours of each day? To what particular purpose should I devote my chief efforts? **How can I make the most of my life?** In what ways can I improve my daily opportunities? How can I make greater progress than I am now doing? **What is the highest aim** I can set before myself as a life ambition? How can I be quite sure that I am working with right methods toward right ends? How can I best advance each day in personal culture, mental power, and righteousness? What is the most practical and immediate way for me to build my life for large usefulness and service? **What particular ways shall I wish that I had taken,** when I am leaving the world?

Opportunities for Your Abilities

FEBRUARY THIRTEEN

APPLY great abilities to small things and the results will be small. Apply small abilities to great things and the results will be better. But apply great abilities to great things and the results will be great. This is the key to large success. If you now feel discontented or circumscribed, plan to change gradually to a **better and bigger place**. There is no valid reason why you should struggle along indefinitely in a wrong vocation or an uncongenial atmosphere. The world offers wide and varied opportunities for your abilities. Be quick to realize and correct your shortcomings. To remain ignorant of your defects is to defraud yourself. You were made to progress, to grow in power and influence, and to **achieve some great and worthy purpose**.

Always Give Your Best to Others

FEBRUARY FOURTEEN

CRITICISM should be suggestive, not arbitrary. Insistent advice may repel rather than help. Personal example is more influential than many words. Criticism and advice too freely given are seldom appreciated. A wise reticence is a safeguard against many blunders. It is better to say too little than too much. When you look for the best you will see little of the worst. It will keep you tolerably busy to put your own life in order and to conform it to a great standard. **The good you think about other people** influences them unconsciously, even tho you do not express it in words. The purpose of your criticism should always be to help and encourage. **Give your best to others**, and they will ultimately give their best to you.

Walking for Health and Vigor

FEBRUARY FIFTEEN

WALKING is one of the best forms of exercise. It confers physical, mental, and spiritual benefits. The correct way to walk is to carry the chest high, chin level, and throw the legs energetically out from the thigh. Right walking puts a tingle in the blood, promotes digestion, clarifies the mind, and elevates the spirit. If you walk alone, charge your mind with a lofty subject, such as **your intimate alliance with the source of all power.** If you walk with a companion, talk upon something of mutual interest and helpfulness. Energetic walking stimulates unsuspected thoughts into action. Walk enough every day, with energetic stride, deep breathing, and definite purpose, and it will contribute to **your health and longevity.**

Right Desire is True Prayer

FEBRUARY SIXTEEN

THE chief purpose of your prayer is not to instruct God, but to bring yourself into harmony with Him. Prayer is not to multiply material possessions, nor to satisfy selfish desires. You pray to God for guidance and protection. As you make your mind receptive, God's spiritual ideas pour into it in full and satisfying measure. The good thus sent to you in unlimited supply meets a deep need of your nature, and gradually you come to realize that **true prayer is right desire** and that such prayer is always answered. Earnestness of desire is better than multiplied words. True prayer promotes humility, patience, self-denial, peace, and gentleness. The final test of true prayer is that it confers upon you **increased joy, faith, and courage.**

Go Forward with Unflinching Will

FEBRUARY SEVENTEEN

THERE are occasions when you must **will strongly and decisively** if you would achieve. To believe yourself able and efficient is a prerequisite to large accomplishment. The happiness and prosperity of many men have been due largely to courage and confidence, based upon well-established **habits of decision, purpose, and constancy**. The activities, duties, and problems of your daily life will be likely to make severe demands upon you, but you will be equal to every demand if your character is **solidly founded upon principle**. The ability to make sound decisions, and to put them promptly into execution, has been a leading characteristic of distinguished men. Be sure to choose your course wisely, then **go forward with unflinching will**.

Put Forth Your Best Effort Now

FEBRUARY EIGHTEEN

A SERIOUS problem is to know what to do when you are confronted by dark and discouraging days. The sun seems effaced. You are in deep despair and depression. Your heart is heavy. You are mastered by material misfortune. You feel perturbed, pessimistic, powerless. But the solution for this seemingly sad condition is at your ready hand. **The remedy lies in hard work.** Apply yourself at once to an earnest, energetic, mind-absorbing task, and your troubles will rapidly take wing. Do this with faith, and believe that the remedy and reward will be speedy and sure. Life is short, hence the importance of putting forth your best effort to-day. **Work has the mark of divine approbation**, since happiness is conferred not upon idleness but upon labor.

Study Great and Inspiring Words

FEBRUARY NINETEEN

THE study of words is a delightful and beneficial occupation. Frequently meditate upon words which express great ideas. Select one such word at a time, and try to realize fully **its beauty, meaning, and significance.** Take the word "truth" and carefully consider its value and import. Think of its universal application. Study it thoroughly until you have made it your own. In like manner study such great words as "immortality," "justice," "love," "God," "hero," "faith," "sublimity," "heaven," "righteousness," "world," "leadership," "power," "humility," "beauty," "wisdom," "perfection," "friendship," and "prosperity." As you deeply meditate upon such words, **you will be conscious of mental uplift and expansion.**

Cultivate Power of Concentration

FEBRUARY TWENTY

CONCENTRATION is a great distinguishing faculty of men of high purpose. The ability to apply your mind steadily and exclusively to one subject at a time is a mark of superior power and essential to really great achievement. Concentration can be cultivated by regular and conscientious practise. When you detect your mind wandering, instantly substitute the desired subject for the intrusive one. Repeated efforts of this kind will rapidly remedy the fault. Be on your guard against mind-wandering and idle day-dreaming as enemies of culture and progress. **Be deeply interested in what you are doing**, and ignore vagrant ideas. Concentration will rapidly build your mental power. It is vital to large mental growth and personal advancement.

Do Things Deliberately and Calmly

FEBRUARY TWENTY-ONE

Men who hurry most, accomplish least. When your plan has been well made, you can proceed to your day's duties with **deliberateness and confidence**. Your best and deepest thoughts will disclose themselves at times of stillness, not in a blustering tempest of over-activity. Moreover, a uniformly tranquil spirit will safeguard you against many common mistakes of judgment and feeling. As you form **the habit of doing everything deliberately and calmly**, you will accomplish more, do it better, and have the satisfaction at the close of the day of having used your powers to the largest advantage. Thus work will become to you an increasing pleasure, **leading you constantly to higher accomplishment**.

The Lessons of Daily Experience

FEBRUARY TWENTY-TWO

EXPERIENCE is the great school-master of life, constantly disciplining you through tests, trials, and difficulties. It imposes penalties for mistakes and misjudgments. It indicates where danger lies, and warns you of inevitable punishment lurking in undesirable directions. Thus you learn **the penalty for waste of time**, the scattering of energies, the pursuit of ill-considered plans, and the prodigal squandering of physical and mental power. Experience tells you not to repeat an offense lest greater punishment befall you. Experience makes you understand that you are living in a real world, with real work to do, and serious problems to solve. Carefully note **the lessons of daily experience**, that your life may be rounded out into fulness.

How to Meet Daily Demands

FEBRUARY TWENTY-THREE

THREE are inevitable interruptions in every busy life. When you have planned to do a special piece of work, there will be a visitor, a telephone call, or some other inopportune demand made upon your time. Then will be put to the test your degree of **courtesy, good-humor, and unselfishness.** However diligent and methodical you may be in allotting your working hours, you should allow for the trivialities which are an unavoidable part of daily life. Submit gracefully to unforeseen interruptions, and use them as opportunities for growth in **patience, adaptability, and kindness.** A compulsory distraction may be a blessing in disguise, after which you can return to your routine work **refreshed and elevated.**

Look to the Quality of Your Work

FEBRUARY TWENTY-FOUR

PLACE special emphasis upon the quality of your work. When the chief aim of your daily life is to produce intrinsically the best, and not merely the outwardly attractive, you can then afford to disregard the approval and praise of men. The inner consciousness of work worthily attempted and well done is its own reward. Let your thought be of quality, not quantity. To do good work you must be interested in it, and to be interested in it you must like it. All the master builders have been earnest, intense, conscientious workers. You can be one of the great men of the world, in the degree that you put quality into your daily work, seeking always for results rather than approbation. **Your opportunities are unlimited.**

Submit Your Will to that of God

FEBRUARY TWENTY-FIVE

THE highest purpose of your life is to do God's will. There is nothing greater than this. It transcends all other duties. Men are haunted by the possibilities of the ideal life; they feel a yearning for spiritual perfection. Every thinking man turns at last to God and asks for guidance. He wants to know God's will that he may fulfil the expectations of the all-wise Father. The first vital step toward spiritual realization is to **submit your will to that of God**, to surrender freely and wholly to Him, and to listen attentively and obediently to His guiding voice. You may search the wide world over for happiness, but you will not find it in its completeness until you have made **the great self-surrender to God**.

Do Something Fine and Noble To-day

FEBRUARY TWENTY-SIX

THREE is something sublime about the beginning of a new day. Possibly the previous night has been filled with dark misgivings, disappointments, and oppressive fears. But the fresh beginning of a new day, with its beautiful light and promise of unexplored possibilities, should gladden the heart and inspire the soul. **Look upward at the beginning of the day.** This simple act will elevate your mind and impel you to go forth with new confidence and power. A day is well-lived in which you have put a fine resolution into practise, achieved a definite purpose, done some worthy act of kindness, or rendered a noble service to others. True service is not limited to time nor place. **To-day is the day to do something fine and noble.**

Conversation and Self-Discipline

FEBRUARY TWENTY-SEVEN

CONVERSATION is a form of self-revelation. There you unconsciously disclose your merits and defects, your virtues and idiosyncracies. The very freedom of conversation takes you off your guard, and exposes you to the keen scrutiny of others. Hence the importance of speech culture. **Study your manner and method of speaking.** Train your voice in the qualities of purity, resonance, and power. Enunciate distinctly, and pronounce accurately. **Choose your words with fastidious care.** Endeavor constantly to improve your style of speaking, and make each occasion of speech an opportunity for self-discipline. Give preference to **pleasant, helpful, interesting subjects.** Use your daily conversation as a means to self-culture and personal progress.

Have a Set of Ruling Motives

FEBRUARY TWENTY-EIGHT

WHEN you can truthfully say that God is the light and strength of your life, and that you consciously depend upon him every hour of the day, you will fear no man. Trust him absolutely and you will be kept in perfect peace. **The truth of God is more to be coveted than the finest gold.** The divine promise is that if you hunger after righteousness you will be satisfied. **Have a set of ruling motives for daily living.** Constantly aim at a higher and better quality of thought. An infinite supply of truth is now at your service, to choose in what measure you will. A great heritage of spiritual riches is yours merely for the taking and using. Claim what is yours today, and let your life express the **truth, love, and goodness of the eternal Mind.**

Do What You Ought to Do To-day

FEBRUARY TWENTY-NINE

BE grateful to-day for opportunity to work and serve. Keep a definite purpose before you, and bend to its accomplishment your best abilities. Put the strength of your mind and muscle into the urgent duty of the moment, that it may be done well. Good work is a divine provision for developing in you initiative, self-reliance, diligence, and other sterling qualities. Do what you ought to do **in a true spirit of gladness and gratitude.** Make the fresh beginning of this day an occasion for stronger resolutions. Let the close of the day witness to your new acquisitions, graces, and accomplishments. To you belongs to-day, with its inestimable opportunities for **work, achievement, and human helpfulness.**

Thought Externalizes Itself

MARCH ONE

SPiritual health is the basis of physical health. Lofty thoughts, high ideals, and worthy ambitions stimulate and inspire the mind, and thence react upon the body imparting to it **purity, sweetness, soundness, and vigor.** A devoted love to God, and an earnest desire to know and obey His precepts, inevitably gives new power to the mind. The efficacy of a single spiritual thought, in promoting **health of mind and vigor of body,** can not be over-estimated. Careless, indifferent, impure thoughts are perilous, and some times fatal. Let your thoughts, ambitions, and ideals be wholly drawn from God's infinite supply, and your life will be **wholesome, happy, healthy, and beautiful.** Think clean, healthy, constructive thoughts, and your body will be correspondingly strong and well.

Will to Do Right Yourself

MARCH TWO

CULTIVATE flexibility of mind. Resist the tendency to want things always your own way, and to have other people necessarily conform their lives to your ideas. Good reasons unknown to you may be guiding them ultimately to the best results. Life would be monotonous if all people thought and acted precisely alike. Diversity of thought and purpose are essential to a progressive world. Will to do right yourself, but do not use your will to control and dominate others. **The habit of generous acquiescence** gives right balance to a strong-willed nature. You may have the will-power of a giant, but should not misuse it. Be kind, generous, and forgiving, since these are **qualities which link you closely to God.**

The Product of Repeated Choice

MARCH THREE

YOU have inspired moments, times of mental exaltation, when you feel a sense of unlimited personal power. This is the time to note such thoughts, and to set them down in writing for actual use. Make a record of your new ideas, plans, purposes, ideals, and resolutions. The habit of putting these vital matters into writing will make them more definite and concrete, and serve to remind you of possible negligence. Bear in mind that there is not a moment in which your character is not being shaped in one direction or another, and that your life is simply **the product of repeated choices**. Grandeur of character is the effect of many habits. Know precisely what you want, proceed directly to it, and **the best results will reward your diligence.**

Common Sense Habits of Eating

MARCH FOUR

MASTICATE your food thoroughly. The vital thing in eating is what you assimilate. Avoid the common fault of bolting food. If in a hurry, eat less and masticate more. Thorough chewing of food not only makes it more palatable, but is a valuable aid to digestion. **Be discriminating in your choice of food.** Eat for health. Plain, well-cooked food is much more nourishing than over-variety. If a food disagrees with you, give it up. Eat plentifully of fresh vegetables and fruits. Relish your food, but never eat to satiety. Most persons eat too much. Quantity and kind of food should be determined by the nature of your daily work and activities. Keep your wants few and simple, and **eat only food that agrees with you.**

Make This Personal Pledge To-day

MARCH FIVE

PERSONAL pledge: I hereby solemnly promise that, from this day forth, I will endeavor to make the best use of my time, ability, and energy. I will promptly correct in myself every undesirable habit. I will diligently aim to make daily progress toward truth and perfection. **I will keep my thought upon a high plane of worthy effort.** I will make the most of my present opportunities as the best means of fitting myself for larger responsibilities. I will think and act according to the dictates of my conscience. I will try sincerely to render helpful service to others. I will cultivate intelligent optimism, self-confidence, dignity, and independence. I will so spend each day, that at night I can lie down with assurance of **God's love and approbation.**

The Eternal Supremacy of Good

MARCH SIX

YOUR mental attitude is a great determining influence in your daily life. Begin the day with an expectant and energetic mental attitude toward your work, plans, and purposes, and it will **elevate and enhance all your activities.** The spirit in which you regard your fellow men and the world about you will be reflected back to you. When you are in the right mental attitude, many things will seem to conspire and cooperate to advance your work and interests. Primarily **it is your mental attitude** which makes the day happy and productive, or the contrary. You can demonstrate the truth of this to-day by resolving to look only for the best, to be intelligently optimistic, and to have confidence in **the eternal supremacy of good.**

Put Your Ideas into Practise

MARCH SEVEN

MAKE more positive resolutions regarding the things you ought to do. Bring every available reinforcement to bear upon such resolutions. Write down on a card the special things you resolve to do, and read it several times a day. Repeat it aloud at frequent intervals. Assert in vigorous tones of voice the thoughts you wish to establish as unconscious habits of your life. The best means of impressing new resolutions upon your mind is by **concentration, iteration, and vigorous assertion.** At the close of every day review your thoughts and actions, and know precisely what you have done with your new resolutions. It is a great thing to conceive a great idea, but it is still greater to **put it into execution.**

The Practical Value of Meditation

MARCH EIGHT

A PROFITABLE pastime is to select a significant saying, and **meditate upon it for a few minutes** until you have made it your own. By this simple means you can furnish your mind with many beautiful and inspiring thoughts, which will be ready to serve you at times of need. The following thoughts will be of suggestive value in this respect: God is love. True knowledge is based on truth. Divine Mind is eternal. **Right thinking is prayer.** Truth, good, and beauty should each be sought for its own sake. Faith is always creative. **Thrift of time brings ripeness of mind.** Opinion of good men is but knowledge in the making. Books are a bloodless substitute for life. We live in an ascending scale when we live happily. **An inspiration is a joy forever.**

Constructive Thoughts and Ideals

MARCH NINE

IT is better to talk of health, progress, happiness, and success, than of the contrary things. It is better to think of the beautiful, truthful, inspiring, and ideal, than the opposite thoughts. It is better to be cheerful, confident, expectant, and enthusiastic than to indulge in destructive feelings. Knowing this, the right course is clearly open to you. Fill your daily life so full of **constructive thoughts and ideals**, that there will be no room for negative and depressing ideas. Confine your conversation to helpful, useful, encouraging subjects. Be generous in thought, word, act, and purpose. Make the world better for your being in it. Take a strong stand for truth and righteousness, and make every day count toward your **eternal progress and happiness.**

You Have a Great Heritage

MARCH TEN

YOU may read many good books, hear much wise counsel, and make emphatic personal resolutions, but until you have the Spirit of God consciously active in your daily life you will not reach true greatness. It is well to **store your mind with rich and lofty truths**, tho their real value to you depends upon the practical use you make of them. Apply the truth which you now possess, and still greater truth will be revealed to you. **The highest standard is not too high for you** to choose as your constant guide. God's ways are higher than your ways, and he is constantly pouring forth his inexhaustible supply of perfect ideas, which are yours for the mere taking and using. **You have a great and goodly heritage**, but you must claim it for yourself.

Serve God With a Willing Mind

MARCH ELEVEN

BE strong and work. Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, **do it with thy might.** God shall bring every work into judgment. Establish you in every good word and work. Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which the Son of Man shall give unto you. **Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God.** Add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience Godliness; and to Godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. Seek first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and **all these things shall be added unto you.** The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. Serve Him with a perfect heart, and with a willing mind.

The Product of Right Thinking

MARCH TWELVE

SINCERITY, kindness, and trustworthiness often carry a man to honorable success more rapidly and surely than the possession of brilliant talents. It is inspiring to observe how some men have marched steadily forward toward large achievement, not because of conspicuous ability, but as a result of **patient, definite, conscientious effort.** Hence it is that some men of great promise accomplish so little, while others who are quiet, unostentatious, self-possess, and diligent, achieve astonishing results. The world has placed a high valuation upon certain cardinal qualities of character, and he who possesses these in fullest degree will ultimately be most highly honored. **Right character** is the product of **right thoughts.**

Make Your Resolutions Emphatic

MARCH THIRTEEN

YOU are aware of having made many resolutions which you have not fully put into execution. Recognizing their importance and desirability, you intended to make them a working force in your life, but as time passed they were pushed aside, neglected, or forgotten. The obvious conclusion from this common experience is that if you really want your resolutions to become **active and significant forces** in your life you must adopt special means to this end. Scrutinize your weaknesses and shortcomings and see precisely wherein you have failed. Make your resolutions more emphatic, and keep strict account of what you do with them. **Determine with all your power** to make them concrete in your daily activities.

Goodness Is a Force of Attraction

MARCH FOURTEEN

GOOD attracts good. The man of upright character radiates an influence for good wherever he goes. Goodness of mind reflects itself in the face and manner so that it can be clearly read by other men. A genuinely good man is a constant guide and inspiration to those about him. It is amazing what the personal example of a good man will do in imparting **confidence, vitality, and enthusiasm** to his friends and associates. A virtuous life is often more persuasively eloquent than much verbal counsel. It is well to mingle freely with good men, that their influence and example may be felt and utilized, but it is still better to be a good man. Goodness has a power all its own to **instruct, persuade, and inspire.**

Your Immense Powers and Resources

MARCH FIFTEEN

THIS day brings to you its share of duties, opportunities, and responsibilities. The spirit in which you approach the work and activities of this new day will vitally affect the results. Go forward with large confidence and high expectation. Be faithful to your obligations, and discharge every duty with promptitude and thoroughness. Be alert to the **fresh opportunities** of this day, and do everything possible to advance your highest and best interests. Stimulate your mind with clear, strong, uplifting ideas of what you wish to accomplish, and realize the **immense powers and resources** at your personal command. Make this day mark a distinct and important advance in your progress toward a great life ideal.

How You Should Speak in Public

MARCH SIXTEEN

WHEN you speak in public be thoroughly prepared, begin slowly, speak distinctly, proceed logically, and end promptly. Be modest, direct, conversational, sincere, earnest, and uniformly courteous. Observe your pauses, suit the action to the word, look your audience in the eyes, and **make yourself interesting**. Speak deliberately, be yourself at your best, keep to your subject and the facts. Favor the deep tones of your voice, and breathe from the abdomen. Depend upon the sincerity of your effort to drive your thought home. Maintain an attitude of uniform mental poise. Lead your audience to **a high level of thought and purpose**. Let the truth and intensity of your message carry conviction and persuasion to your hearers.

Live To-day a Full-Orbed Life

MARCH SEVENTEEN

LET your life be broad, sympathetic, lofty, and comprehensive. Beware those habits and ruts which unconsciously limit men who are too much absorbed in single pursuits. **Keep the windows of your mind wide open** to the light from all directions. Give your spirit a daily flight of exercise and freedom. Let the innermost thoughts of your mind gain strength and significance through expression. Liberate the fine feelings of love, joyousness, enthusiasm, nobility, gratitude, and appreciation, that your heart may expand into fulness. **Live now a full-orbed life.** It is better to be good-natured than great, and to be sincerely beloved by your friends and associates transcends all material riches. **Live your largest life to-day.**

Discriminate in Your Use of Words

MARCH EIGHTEEN

YOU think in words—with words you talk, command, appeal, convince, persuade. Study words so that you can **use them significantly, effectively, worthily.** Study them in your dictionary and in the works of standard writers. **Be discriminating in your use of words.** Make lists of the best words and incorporate them in your daily speech. Begin with a list like this: Extenuate, revere, beguile, poignant, admirable, trenchant, umbrage, incredulity, facetious, sequestered, vagary, fidelity, obliquity, radiance, fantastic, ubiquitous, dissent, rectitude, duplicity, illustrious, fragile, chronicle, voracious, meticulous, scrupulous, lucid, venerate, aversion, ingenuous. Daily study of words is a delightful and profitable pastime.

You Have All the Time There Is

MARCH NINETEEN

EVERY thinking man comes to realize how rapidly time passes. When the realization of this fully dawns upon him, his inclination is to hurry in the desire to attempt and achieve more. Here, however, it is well for him to ponder the situation deeply and deliberately. He should realize that he really has at his disposal all the time there is, and that the important thing is to know how to **formulate the best plans** for securing the desired results. When this is done with prudence and judgment, he can proceed with his appointed work with the assurance that his plans have been well made. Under these circumstances he should have no thought of haste, but do all with a sense of **personal power and confidence.**

The Promise of Golden Days

MARCH TWENTY

THE unfolding time of spring brings new hope and courage to mankind. Nature gradually assumes her garb of warmth, tenderness, and freshness. The sunshine searches out the hidden places of earth, and repeats her miracle of making the world **a smiling flower garden**. Spring comes softly and gently to smooth away the rough lines of winter, filling the air with perfume and melody, and awaking things to life. It is the promise of **golden days and lingering lights**. It is the time of graceful transformation, when the secrets of nature are slowly revealed to the wondering senses. Birds and blossoms, leaves and flowers, trees and mountains, give ever-increasing delight, and all nature seems to join **as in one great choral song** of praise and gratitude.

The Secret of True Friendship

MARCH TWENTY-ONE

TRUE friendship is not based upon selfish bargaining. It makes no undue demands, is not supersensitive, gives without thought of return, and generously overlooks faults. It is careful not to offend, and is **tactful and discriminating** when shadows of doubt appear. True friendship expresses itself in interest, sympathy, good-will, and affection. It is free from self-consciousness and self-assertiveness. It is always **ready to listen and to serve**. If you would have a true friend, first be one. Diligently cultivate within yourself the rare qualities which comprise such a friendship. In the degree that you are ready to give, serve, sympathize, and help, with no thought of return or reward, in such degree will you **build sweet and enduring friendships**.

Take Your Rightful High Place

MARCH TWENTY-TWO

THREE is more sympathy, sincerity, and spirit of sacrifice in the world than ever before. Many men have come to realize the power and desirability of kindness, unselfishness, and integrity. In business and social life these and similar qualities are being applied with constantly increasing success. **The world is gradually becoming better**, largely because of the self-denial, heroism, and nobility of thousands of men and women. The world is steadily growing more interesting, beautiful, and inspiring, chiefly because of these consecrated lives. It is your privilege and opportunity to **take a place in this brotherhood** of earnest and willing workers, and thereby to contribute your share to the world's betterment.

The Useful Practise of Writing

MARCH TWENTY-THREE

FORM the valuable habit of writing down important thoughts which you wish to have prominently before your mind. The note-books which you keep in this way, comprising significant ideas from your own mind and from the books you read, will become valuable repositories of truth. The practise of writing will **impress such thoughts clearly** upon your mind, and reading them aloud at intervals will tend to make the impression indelible. Vague and vagrant thoughts are clarified and improved in the process of putting them into written form. Ideas are not fully your own until you have express them clearly in speech or writing. **The note-book habit** is of immense practical value in training the mind to clear and logical thinking.

Develop a Forceful Personality

MARCH TWENTY-FOUR

PERSONALITY plays a vital part in building a successful career. The man of pleasing and forceful personality readily attracts and keeps friends. His services are in constant demand. He is a power in business, a favorite in society, and in public life the man of the hour. An important element in a strong personality is a good speaking voice, combining depth, fulness, and pleasantness of tone. A uniformly courteous and gracious manner, **a large stock of common sense**, a flexible disposition, proper reticence in speech, refinement of taste, and a broad-mindedness expressing itself in nobility and self-sacrifice, are some of the qualities which make for an attractive personality. They are also **important factors** in a successful life.

Ideals Are Heights of Inspiration

MARCH TWENTY-FIVE

SET before your mind in clear and definite form **one of your great life purposes.** Then concentrate upon it for a few minutes each day, in a place where you can be quiet and relaxed. Direct your mind to it immediately upon rising in the morning, and the last thing upon retiring at night. Carefully think out the best means and methods for realizing such purpose. Dwell upon **the advantages, rewards, and pleasures** which will come from its full realization. Confidently believe yourself capable of achieving the great purpose you have in mind. Be enthusiastic about it. Turn to the contemplation of it at frequent intervals. Resolve to bend your best energies and abilities to its accomplishment. **Ideals are heights of inspiration.**

Read a Great Book To-day

MARCH TWENTY-SIX

READ principally for enlargement and enrichment of mind. Waste no time on trivial and inferior books. Life should not be squandered upon the useless and inconsequential. **Be selective and fastidious** in your daily reading. A glorious company of distinguished men of all time invite you to share their best thoughts and sentiments. There is a wealth of noble and inspiring literature at your ready service. **Choose a great book today** for your companion. As you read the great thoughts of great men, endeavor so to assimilate their ideas and ideals as to make them a practical power in your life. Realize the importance of selective and discriminating thought in building a great and worthy life. **As you think, so will your life be.**

Cultivate the Student Habit

MARCH TWENTY-SEVEN

YOUR intellectual power **grows through use.** You can not acquire knowledge by proxy. You must store your mind with fundamental truths, and work out your own mental problems. Develop a habit of clear, logical thinking, of digging deeply to foundation truths and principles. **Have a direct, definite, daily plan** for mental culture. Feed your mind upon the thoughts of the world's great thinkers. **Make good use of spare moments** to develop new and useful ideas. Books give you the materials of knowledge, but wisdom must come largely from within yourself. Meditate upon what you read. Daily reflect upon what you have done, and intend to do. Carefully examine your present methods, and seek to improve them. **Cultivate the student habit.**

Rid Yourself of Personal Faults

MARCH TWENTY-EIGHT

THREE is a host of common faults and habits from which you should **persistently endeavor to keep yourself free.** Do not be misled by specious excuses offered in their behalf, but **root them out of your nature** if they are there. They are recognized as irritability, intolerance, anger, worry, supersensitivity, ill-temper, restlessness, sullenness, resentment, moodiness, courtesy, captiousness, cynicism, impulsiveness, unkindness, false pride, presumption, carelessness, insincerity, indiscretion, selfishness, disloyalty, self-assertion, disparagement, insinuation, and hyper-criticism. These undesirable characteristics react upon the guilty one, and therefore **should be avoided** if only for self-interest.

Make This Day Great in Results

MARCH TWENTY-NINE

ASK yourself frankly whether you are conducting your life upon as high a plane as you might, or whether you are satisfied with a standard below your best. Ask yourself whether you really desire to make the most of your powers and opportunities. If you do so desire, then definitely determine to make this day **richer, fuller, and better** in aim and achievement than ever before. Remember that it is by translating your fine sense of aspiration **into actual daily deeds** that you grow toward your ideal. Link your lofty thoughts to earnest, active effort, and good results will inevitably follow. The great things you intend to do some time must have a beginning if they are ever to be done, so **begin to do something great to-day.**

Breathe Deeply for Good Health

MARCH THIRTY

ONE of the most important factors in building and maintaining good health is to **breathe deeply**. Several times daily stop and deliberately take half a dozen or more deep breaths. Inhale through your nose, and at the same time expand your abdomen and chest to their fullest extent. Exhale through your mouth, slowly, smoothly, deeply. Realize that deep breathing cleanses your lungs and fills them with life-giving oxygen. Enjoy the exercise and get the full benefit of its invigorating effect. **Deep breathing is the basis of robust health.** Remind yourself many times daily to breathe deeply, and continue this practise until it becomes an unconscious habit. The last thing at night take several deep breaths at an open window.

The All-Inclusive Goodness of God

MARCH THIRTY-ONE

THE cash-register keeps a man honest, but does not necessarily make him honest. Abstaining from evil because of the fear of punishment does not destroy evil. **The only way** to annihilate evil in your life is to realize that it has no power to confer happiness upon you, but on the contrary is a counterfeit and spurious coin masquerading as genuine. Realize that the only real, enduring, joy-giving power is goodness, and that **through right thinking** you can be wholly emancipated from belief in sin. Give some thought daily to eternal truth. As you spiritualize your mind by understanding the all-inclusive goodness of God, every motive for wrong doing will disappear as mist before the sun, and **you will become in actuality a new creature.**

Aim at Consecration and Service

APRIL ONE

CULTIVATE dignity, depth, deliberateness, decision and distinction. Be simple, sincere, serious, serene, sympathetic, and strong. Build courage, confidence, candor, courtesy, concentration, and character. Develop pluck, prudence, perseverance, promptitude, patience, purity, poise, and power. **Consecration of character and purpose** should be your constant aim. It is from the mountain heights that you can get the clearest sweep of the horizon. When you realize that there is a habit which you ought to develop more highly, dwell upon it many times a day. A nail is not driven to its head by a single stroke, nor is a habit formed by a single attempt. Only repeated effort **drives a habit down into the mind** so that it becomes deep-rooted and permanent.

Growth in Greatness of Character

APRIL TWO

MUCH is said of loyalty, love, and service, but their real significance to you is the degree in which you actually use them in your every-day life. Hence you need time for **daily meditation and reflection**, that you may better know what you are doing with your time, talents, and opportunities. Greatness of character is something more than a catalog of qualities. It is **greatness of daily living, intention, conduct, and effort**. It is actually doing the things which are implied by greatness. It means an alert mental attitude toward opportunities for noble service. It is doing promptly and gladly the duty of the moment, without thought of reward or special recognition. **Greatness of life emanates from greatness of thought.**

Right Talking as a Stimulant

APRIL THREE

RIIGHT talking is a stimulant to right thinking. It serves among other things the great purpose of bringing into view valuable thoughts which otherwise would remain dormant. It is significant that most of the world's great thinkers met in groups, to exchange ideas and opinions. There is no better way to supplement the results from reading a great book than to talk the subject over with a congenial and well-informed friend. **Thoughts grow and multiply** in the process of expression. Uncertain and indefinite thoughts often become clarified when they have been put into actual words. Talking should always be reciprocal, not exclusive. To be an interesting talker, you must also be an interesting listener, since one is a complement of the other.

Stepping-Stones to Real Success

APRIL FOUR

YOU are building better than you realize. Just at the time when things appear to be going the wrong way, they may be shaping themselves for the best results. A temporary disappointment is often a blessing in disguise. Seeming failure has many a time proved only a stepping-stone to real success. Every trial, temptation, mistake, and apparent failure can be made **to serve a useful purpose.** It depends upon yourself whether you turn such experiences to practical advantage. Your best guides and teachers are often those very disappointments which **stimulate to better self-management.** Meditate deeply upon a difficult problem, and the solution will probably unfold itself. There is no such thing as failure to one who makes it a lesson in wisdom.

The Value of Self-Examination

APRIL FIVE

IT is easy to offer advice to others, but difficult to apply it to ourselves. There is a natural tendency to tell others what they should and should not do, and to give them profound counsel for the proper conduct of their lives. Most of us, however, ourselves need all the good advice and suggestions we can receive. The time we spend in attempting to influence and direct other people, might often be spent to greater advantage in **self-examination, self-improvement, and self-discipline.** We are all in the process of development, and we shall be well advised if we first apply advice to ourselves before offering it to others. The greatest influence for good in the world is **by means of personal example** rather than through admonition and exhortation.

Render Helpful Service To-day

APRIL SIX

THE habit of being uniformly considerate toward others will bring to you increased happiness. As you put into practise the cardinal qualities of patience, punctuality, sincerity, and solicitude, you will have a better opinion of the world about you. **The consciousness of duty well done** brings satisfaction and the incentive to do still better. It is in the little things of every-day intercourse with others that you can best develop sympathetic qualities of heart. **True gentleness is not incompatible with power.** It is a mark of nobility of soul. Be ready to take advantage of trifling opportunities to say the generous word, do the thoughtful act, and render the helpful service. **You will not pass this way again.**

Cultivate a Yielding Disposition

APRIL SEVEN

ADAPTABILITY is indispensable to a well-ordered life. It has its basis in **unselfishness and discipline**, and therefore is quick to adjust itself to difficult and unexpected circumstances. It is one of the most valuable qualities in times of stress and misunderstanding. It helps to clear the atmosphere of dark clouds of doubt and disagreement. It enables one to **enter sympathetically into the thoughts and feelings of others**. It solves many an otherwise stubborn problem. As you develop in your character the quality of adaptability, you will gradually free yourself from numerous worries, frictions, and embarrassments which beset the average life. **Cultivate a yielding disposition**, and interpret generously what others say and do.

Be Worthy of Your High Calling

APRIL EIGHT

THE supreme guide to right living is the Word of God as exprest in the Bible. **You can not possibly get away from God.** The great need is for practical righteousness, the truth of God actually applied to every-day life. This priceless truth is to be found in God's Holy Word. Study it daily, meditate upon it deeply, **make it your constant guide and counsellor.** It will be a lamp to your feet, and a light to your path. It will cultivate within you the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Awake, O man, and claim your inestimable inheritance to-day. Go forth with courage and purpose to your appointed work. **Be worthy of your high calling.**

Plan Better and Achieve More

APRIL NINE

REALIZE how quickly time passes and you will **plan better and achieve more**. When you have an important thing to do, reserve sufficient time in which to do it properly. Miscalculation as to time is a prolific cause of haste, waste, inefficiency, inconvenience, and disappointment. It is impossible to do two hours good work in one. Know how much you can accomplish in a certain time, then make your plans accordingly. Work that you do hastily or under pressure of time is not likely to be your best work. Plan the hours of the day so that they will **yield the best results**. Time passes quickly, and what you do with the present moment is of vital importance. Definite thought and action economizes time and energy. **Beware vacillation.**

Your Manners, Tastes and Habits

APRIL TEN

THE man you most admire is the type of man you ought to be. He is courteous, adaptable, magnanimous, sympathetic, and tactful. He favors pleasant aspects of life, and has large common sense. It is well to study this type of man and to emulate his example. The fine qualities of **kindliness, tact, sympathy, and courtesy** can be cultivated by giving them thoughtful attention. You can also learn what not to be from the unlovely type of man. He is captious, contradicting, unsympathetic, and phlegmatic. You feel you have nothing in common with him. He repels you. You can develop in yourself the **manners, tastes, and habits** which you most admire in others. The man you most like to meet is the type of man you ought to be.

Learn to Be Still and Meditate

APRIL ELEVEN

IT is a great gift to be able to **sit still and meditate** when all around is noise, bustle, and confusion. The restless spirit in most men is constantly urging them on to some perspiring project, to keep going in the hope of getting at least somewhere, to strain all the energies toward some mighty enterprise. Application and diligence are desirable qualities to possess, nay essential, but a well-planned life demands, too, intervals of silence and quietude for **mental and spiritual growth**, for the building of airy castles, for tracing out detailed plans, and estimating future prospects and possibilities. The hours you spend in quiet meditation and deliberation are necessary to **intelligent planning, living and working.**

Round Out Your Life into Fulness

APRIL TWELVE

THE exclusive often excludes itself. Put a barrier between yourself and the world, and you will not so much shut the world from you as you will shut yourself from the world. **Man was not made to live alone.** Times of solitude are essential to your greatest growth, but you must also have the society of your fellow men in order to **round out your life into fulness.** Exclusiveness is not good when it deprives you of influences and associations which you ought to have. There is a happy mean between solitude and sociability. You must have periods with your auto-comrade, when you can hold deep communion with yourself, and appraise your spiritual assets; but **it is equally important** to mingle with society that you may benefit by its ideas and influence.

Look Earnestly to Your Own Needs

APRIL THIRTEEN

A PROFOUND duty devolves upon you to develop daily and assiduously in your own life the qualities of sympathy, sincerity, and sacrifice. Thus you may contribute your share to the world's improvement and advancement. The world should grow steadily better, wiser, and nobler, and it will do this in the degree that individual men cultivate these virtues in themselves. Do not wait for other men to take the first steps in self-improvement, but **look earnestly to your own needs** and resolve to set a high personal example which other men will see and wish to emulate. The world grows better because of the men who are consecrated to high thinking and noble deeds. **Your rightful place is with such men.**

Be Right, Just, and Magnanimous

APRIL FOURTEEN

KEEP your viewpoint broad and generous. Be patient with those whose opinions conflict with yours. No one has a monopoly of truth. You may not be wholly right, and your opponent may not be wholly wrong. Let your desire be to be right, just, and magnanimous, rather than to triumph over the opinions and judgments of other men. **Truth eventually justifies itself.** When your motives are right you may stand strong and confident in face of criticism and vituperation. A sincere and persistent desire for the truth will be your best safeguard against the ignoble and untrustworthy. Tolerance, patience, right motives, and lofty purpose will give you a sense of mental security. **Let your daily life speak eloquently of your ideals.**

Use the Best Powers of Your Mind

APRIL FIFTEEN

LOVE truth for its own sake, not for the reward it will bring to you. Seek good for its own sake, not for the happiness it will confer upon you. Thus will your life become sweeter and stronger each day, since truth and goodness are **the foundation of great and noble living**. Inspired by loftiness of purpose and breadth of mind, you will ascend from one plane of thought to another until your view will be like that from a mountain height. Petty limitations and false motives will disappear from your mentality, and you will be conscious of having graduated into **a vastly larger world of thought and purpose**. The quest for eternal truth is the greatest work to which you can address the best powers of your mind.

Your Privilege and Opportunity

APRIL SIXTEEN

GREATNESS of manhood implies self-denial and self-sacrifice. Nobility of character demands much service and unselfishness. As you grow in bigness of spirit, you will more readily yield your personal preferences to the desires of others. An inward sense of happiness and peace comes from doing voluntarily a noble act, of rendering a secret service which involves self-denial, or of making a special personal sacrifice in the cause of another's welfare. **The spirit of Christ** is to give generously, freely, and daily, to render helpful service at every opportunity, to seek deliberately and earnestly to make the world stronger, better, happier, and more beautiful. This is **your rare privilege and opportunity.**

Take an Exalted Place in the World

APRIL SEVENTEEN

DESIRE, definiteness, determination, and daring are necessary to successful achievement in any great endeavor. These supreme qualities have characterized the world's greatest men. You can not wish nor dream your way into largeness of life. You must plan and plow and persevere in order to win reward and renown. **Life's big prizes and preferences** are given to the efficient and worthy. If you would take an exalted place in the world of workers, you must win your way not by wishing, but through wisdom, will, and worthiness. You elect by means of your thought power the precise place you are to occupy. There is nothing more potential than well-directed thought. **Seize every opportunity to improve yourself.**

Be Yourself at Your Best

APRIL EIGHTEEN

YOU are what you are. No pleading, pretense, assertion, explanation, or apology can make you other than you are innately. If you would be other than you are, set to work in the silent and secluded chamber of your own soul, and there begin the work of reformation. **All growth is from within out.** A veneering process never changes character. To progress toward perfection, apply yourself persistently and sincerely to mental stocktaking and mental housecleaning. Put your mind in order, and **be fastidious in forming your habits of thought.** Power in its supreme forms always works noiselessly. Accustom yourself to do everything with regularity, poise, and deliberateness. Be yourself at your best. **You are what you are.**

As You Think in Your Own Heart

APRIL NINETEEN

IT is literally true that as you sow, so will you reap. It is the immutable and inexorable law, and it applies alike to the physical and mental realms. The mission of pain is discipline. It acts as a sentinel, a signal, a reformer, warning you of more serious trouble if you do not mend your course. **Your character is the sum of your acts**, and each of your acts is preceded by a thought. Therefore, as you think in your own heart, as you daily develop and dwell upon certain thoughts in your own mind, so in reality you are. Inasmuch as your thoughts are both architect and builder of your life and destiny, you should guard them as your greatest power and possession. **The truth of God is the pearl of great price.**

The Infinite Supply of Good

APRIL TWENTY

THE supreme spiritual law is that **health, harmony, and happiness** are directly dependent upon right thinking. To have right effects in your outward life you must have right causes in your inner mind. **The kingdom of harmony is within you.** It is possible for you to correct every wrong and erroneous condition in your daily life by the intelligent application of truth. **There is an infinite supply of good** for your use, but you must connect yourself with the great source of spiritual law. There are upward of a hundred and fifty million suns in the solar system, but what is more wonderful God has graciously bestowed upon you **the inestimable gift** of making his own thoughts forever available to you.

Think and Plan Carefully

APRIL TWENTY-ONE

AT the beginning of each day carefully determine what are the really essential things you should do, then give them first attention. Once you have formed this habit you will have an increased sense of satisfaction. The actual working time of a single day is short, and often many things contemplated and planned for a given day must be postponed. Take time to think and plan carefully, and you will make each day more highly productive in actual results. **Get a right sense of life's values.** Learn to give your thought first to essential things, so that useless trifles will not so easily consume your time. The more earnestly you study right proportion and perspective, the better judgment you will have in planning a well-ordered life.

Silence Is Essential to Growth

APRIL TWENTY-TWO

SILENCE brings stillness of spirit.

Silence promotes clearness and accuracy of mental vision. When you are long silent, your profoundest thoughts tend to disclose themselves. It is in the silent sanctuary of your own spirit, when you have shut out all worldly thoughts and cares, that you come into intimate communion with the source of all good. It is then that you become most deeply conscious of your God-given powers. In cultivating a quiet life it must not be allowed to subside into indolence and self-sufficiency. Times of silence are **essential to spiritual growth**, but this does not mean detachment and aloofness. After periods of silence and solitude you should return to society with **vastly increased power for sympathy and service.**

The Practical Use of Meditation

APRIL TWENTY-THREE

MEDITATION is a valuable aid in deepening knowledge, correcting judgment, and formulating right plans. By means of meditation you learn to appraise your ideas at their correct value. When you desire to materialize some important thing in your life, first sit down where you can be silent and undisturbed. Drop all tension of the mind and body. Then **mentally outline the thing you want.** Dwell upon it until you can see it clearly and in detail. Study it until it becomes as definite as the plans of an architect. When it is clear and satisfactory to you, concentrate on it until it is deeply imprest upon your mind. Insist upon securing a clear-cut mental picture. Then proceed day by day to **actualize this plan and picture in your life.**

Claim Your Freedom and Power

APRIL TWENTY-FOUR

HAPPINESS is a habit. A bright, hopeful, optimistic attitude of mind is essential to your well-being. **There is healing power in a single spiritual idea.** Peace, poise, confidence, and contentment are the natural products of a happy disposition. Kindness and appreciation promote happiness. Generosity and good will have an uplifting influence. To be happy is not only your privilege, but **it is your duty.** The power which you have to give happiness to others implies an obligation to do so. Happiness does not depend so much upon great material possessions as upon **right mental attitude.** There is nothing which will so surely produce happiness in your own life and that of those about you as **a uniform habit of kindness and appreciation.**

Seek Earnestly to Know Yourself

APRIL TWENTY-FIVE

THE truly great are those who, without sense of humiliation, willingly recognize their own deficiencies and earnestly seek to correct them. The world does not expect you to know everything, but you can make an earnest effort to **know essential things**. You are weak when you are reluctant to acknowledge your ignorance; you are strong when you place the desire to know and understand above mere personal feeling and appearance. Let your desire for truth transcend all minor considerations. Ignorance is invariably confident. The man of knowledge learns to realize his own needs. **Be honest and severe in your self-appraisal.** Learn the art of learning, and you are well on the way to achievement. **True greatness is reflective**, not assertive.

Recognize Things as They Are

APRIL TWENTY-SIX

SIN is ignorance. Noise is inefficiency. Anger is weakness. Haste is waste. Self-pity is selfishness. Discontent is infirmity. Flattery is foolishness. Pride is littleness. Sloth is extravagance. Fear is self-limitation. Worry is blindness. Prejudice is narrowness. Envy is meanness. Resentment is obliquity. Arrogance is ill-breeding. Revenge is savagery. **Simplicity is greatness.** Gentleness is strength. Poise is power. Righteousness is wisdom. Truth is reality. Faith is aspiration. Generosity is gratitude. Nobility is uprightness. Refinement is sensitivity. Dignity is high-mindedness. Patience is discipline. Humility is obedience. Purity is consecration. Holiness is wholeness. Love is unselfishness. **Happiness is perfection.**

How to Form Right Habits

APRIL TWENTY-SEVEN

HABITS that become deeply rooted in your life are often difficult to change. Ordinary resolutions are not usually effective. Such faults as worry, anger, impulsiveness, resentment, and impatience, can be eliminated only by **earnest, persistent, repeated effort**. The first step is to recognize the special defects in your character, and next to take every available means to eradicate them. If you have been thinking the wrong kind of thoughts—thoughts of discouragement, poverty, timidity, limitation—begin at once to **substitute the right kind of thoughts**—thoughts of encouragement, plenty, confidence, and opportunity. The process of substituting right thought habits for wrong ones will gradually bring about the desired transformation.

Practise Quietness and Relaxation

APRIL TWENTY-EIGHT

SIT in a quiet place. Relax the entire body. Slowly inhale a full deep breath through the nostrils. Exhale very slowly. Continue this exercise for a few minutes, **breathing slowly, regularly, and deeply.** When you have become quiet and relaxed, direct your mind to such helpful thoughts as peace, contentment, love, truth, goodness, harmony, beauty, kindness, gratitude, health, success, achievement, happiness, independence, and prosperity. As you continue to apply this exercise at convenient intervals, you will realize that these qualities are becoming more manifest in your life, and that there is no limit to the possibilities of your development along these lofty lines. Constructive thoughts build for **power, progress, and prosperity.**

Cultivate True Simplicity

APRIL TWENTY-NINE

KEEP your life simple. Be on strict guard against subtle influences of men and society to lead you away from the simple life. Keep your life simple in a big, strong sense. True simplicity is free from self-seeking and selfishness. It manifests itself in a sincere and straightforward attitude toward others. Be true to the **visions and inspirations** of your own mind. If you would be great you must be simple, sincere, and strong. The simple things of the world confound the wise. The last shall be first. Realize the power and greatness of true simplicity, and endeavor to make it a preeminent quality in your character, work, and life. The noble men of all time have been **men of simplicity and sincerity.**

Be a Constant Help to Others

APRIL THIRTY

THE greatest influence for good that you can wield in the world is by your personal example. Your own undeviating devotion to high ideals will do more to encourage and help other men than any verbal counsel you can offer. The effect of a great example can not be fully estimated, since it often influences men unconsciously. Probably when you least suspect it you are most influencing those about you. Hence the importance of always being **on your best behavior**. Life is a precious thing, and opportunity to do good through example and service imposes a sacred obligation upon each and all. Let your best self be exprest in your speech, manner, and personality, that you may be **a constant help and inspiration to other men.**

Take Pleasure in Your Work

MAY ONE

IT is well to work, observe, read, talk, exercise, play, study, and travel, but not to overdo any of these things. Prudence dictates a happy medium, a middle course, as most conducive to the best results. Excessive work, continuous observation, protracted talking, and prolonged reading and studying are taxing and tiresome. To be too much occupied may spell inefficiency. You can be too continually interested, so that your mental and physical powers become sapped and weakened. There is a **desirable disinterestedness** which will prevent you from wasting your energy upon trifles and non-essentials. **Learn to take pleasure** in everything you do, whether it be work or play, but always avoid extremes. Experience should teach prudence and conservatism.

Think Right and You Will Do Right

MAY TWO

YOU can not afford to dally with wrong, sinful, undesirable thoughts. It is perilous business to let such thoughts occupy your mind an instant longer than necessary to substitute the right opposite thoughts. **Make a solemn pledge with yourself** that you will always destroy such thoughts on the instant of their appearance. You must not only do right, but your innermost thought and intention should be unwaveringly directed toward the right. If there is a single unworthy thought slumbering in your mind, root it out to-day by **a thorough mental overhauling**. Thoughts are real things, governing, directing, and influencing your life and destiny. Keep your thoughts **strong, wholesome, and ascending**. Think right.

God's Truth Is Now Yours

MAY THREE

THE voice of truth comes to you most clearly in times of deep meditation. Through spiritual intuition you come into possession of the finer, truer, stronger elements of your God-given self. As you meditate upon divine ideas, your mind is clarified and your life elevated. **God's truth is now and always accessible to you.** It offers the most sublime and satisfying study of all time. The more you meditate upon divine ideas, the more fruitful will your life become. Think what it would mean to you to conform your mind exclusively to spiritual standards. Realize what it would mean to live up to the vision of what you know you ought to be. Your greatest heritage is the privilege of **sharing in God's thoughts** and of using them as your own.

True Humility Is Greatness

MAY FOUR

OBEDIENCE and humility are two supreme qualities of a Christian life. Complete submission to divine authority is a difficult thing for most men, but it is essential to right conduct. **True humility is in reality true greatness**, tho few men seem willing to practise it. Humility is ready to waive its own rights, to accept less than its due, to rate its own claims low. It is not like diffidence, which distrusts its own powers, nor weakness, which submits passively to insult or humiliation. **True humility is strong** tho simple, confident tho modest, intelligently alert tho kind and forgiving. Christ was the supreme example of these two great qualities: obedient to the Father, and humble toward men.

Practise These Exercises Daily

MAY FIVE

BEGIN the day, before you rise, with **stretching exercises.** 1. Lie flat on the back, stretch the left arm overhead six times and return to the side. Repeat with the right arm. Then alternate. 2. With hands clasped, draw the left leg close to the abdomen, bending the knee. Repeat with the right leg, then with both legs. 3. Raise the left leg, keeping the knee straight. Repeat with the right leg, then alternate. 4. Lie on right side, raise left arm and left leg. 5. Lie on left side, raise right arm and right leg. 6. Lie face downward. Flex the left leg at the knee, next the right leg, then both legs. 7. Clasp the hands in the small of the back, draw the hands down as far as possible while raising the head. **Do each movement six or more times.**

Launch Your Best Ideas To-Day

MAY SIX

THE antidote for sorrow, worry, and discouragement is useful occupation. The next best thing to doing a kindly act is to be appreciative of one. Progress comes from **not making the same mistake twice**. It is well to be sure that your train of thought is on the right track. Debt and disease are equally destructive. A thing you don't need is dear at any price. **It is far better to live for a man than to die for one.** Do at least one kind act every day, and your life will grow in beauty and power. To hesitate is weakness, to turn back is defeat. Look for big values in life and you will be more likely to find them. This is the day of days to **launch your new ideas** and to **demonstrate your worth**. The Golden Rule is twelve inches long.

Enrich Your Life By Good Work

MAY SEVEN

IT is really quite wonderful how even little daily victories over inertia, weakness, uncertainty, and depression, contribute ultimately to a successful life. The practise of rising above petty discouragements and seeming obstacles soon develops **a habit of self-confidence equal to any undertaking.** Work was never intended to be drudgery, but a source of pleasure and a stimulus to worthy achievement. Life is not a treadmill, a jail, or a place of punishment; but a beautiful and fascinating field of endeavor and enterprise, with inspiring horizons of newer and greater fields beckoning ever onward. **Work, opportunity, effort, and service** are blessings to enrich life and make it truly worth living. Blessed is the man who does his work joyously.

Give Time Daily to Self-Culture

MAY EIGHT

THREE are no short cuts to wisdom. The acquisition of superior knowledge demands thoroughness, accuracy, and concentration. Desultory reading and fitful study may give you information, but not great knowledge and culture. Ordinary ability with extraordinary diligence can accomplish astonishing results. Intellectual power is a growth rather than a gift. The inevitable price for real knowledge is laborious application. The use you make of your present mental powers has a vital influence upon **your further development.** Intellectual culture is not for self-satisfaction or ostentatious display, but for increased **efficiency, usefulness, and achievement.** The time you give daily to self-culture is a profitable investment.

Accept Your Great Heritage Now

MAY NINE

NOW is the time for you to assume your rightful place in the world. Within the realm of your own mind, you have exalted powers which you should put to actual, practical, immediate use. Your mental power will grow in a marvelous way as you utilize the superior material of your mind. Realize the **great mental resources** at your ready command, and resolve to make better and larger use of your daily opportunities. Get a clear mental picture of what you ought to do, then keep it before you as a constant inspiration. There is an inexhaustible field open for your talents and energies. Do not longer procrastinate, but accept your great heritage now. All things necessary are yours **if you will but take them.**

Take a Strong Stand for Truth

MAY TEN

IF there is anything in your present habits or character which is preventing you from expressing your real self and living your best life, put it from you now and forever. **Take an uncompromising stand for truth**, be done with timidity and subterfuge, and dare to live your own convictions. Once the pathway of right and duty is clear to you, let no influence entice you from it. Rid yourself once and for all of every weight and obstacle which in the slightest degree retards your highest progress. **Proclaim yourself this day** a free man, free to work and serve, free to live the big, sincere, useful, independent life made possible to you by **the gift of God**. Relinquish everything which holds you back from your great heritage.

Emulate the Highest Examples

MAY ELEVEN

THE world always gives its praise to men of sterling principle. You are constantly enjoined to **emulate the example of high-minded men** who put character above covetousness and righteousness above mere personal power. Many of the greatest men have performed common and ordinary duties with the same thoroughness and spirit demanded by great tasks. The seemingly commonplace duties of daily life have an important part in developing the industry, perseverance, and courage **essential in large affairs.** To become a leader and an authority in any field of activity, you must first apprentice yourself to the daily round and routine of seemingly insignificant things. Make the best of what you have, and **greater things will follow.**

Think Well Before You Speak

MAY TWELVE

ILL-CONSIDERED speech is responsible for many misunderstandings and enmities. There is nothing so inimical to friendship as the habit of impulsive and imprudent speaking. There are indiscreet talkers who never take time to estimate the possible damage of what they say, but turn blithely from one subject to another seemingly unconscious of having given personal offense. There is no more dangerous weapon than an unruly tongue, and it has well been called the great divider. Set, therefore, a seal on your lips, put a bridle on your tongue, and **think well before you speak.** It is your duty to speak, but it is well always to remember that **you proclaim yourself to the world** through silence as well as through speech.

Put Forth Your Best Efforts

MAY THIRTEEN

THREE is inspiration in the thought that genius thrives upon the impossible. To the man of confidence and courage, difficulties serve only to stimulate and enlist the highest efforts of which he is capable. No one knows the real difficulties, discouragements, and demands of a work until he is engaged in it. No matter how formidable a task may appear to you, if it is a work to which you believe yourself called, **put forth your best abilities**, and difficulty will readily surrender to diligence. The man of great capacity naturally seeks a great enterprise. Your physical and mental powers grow best in the exercise of adequately laborious tasks. **One of the greatest rewards of achievement** is that it lights the way to something still greater.

Good Is Always Available to You

MAY FOURTEEN

REBUKE in yourself every weakness and shortcoming. Be diligent in your desire for the best in life. Daily commit to memory some great thought that it may quicken and ennable you. Be ready and willing to part with your faults. Have the courage to be simple and sincere in all your thoughts and acts. The only thing higher than the wish to serve is to render service. It is in the common incidents of your daily life that you reveal your true character. **Good is always available to you.** This inexhaustible power is at your command at any moment and in every emergency. Claim your great heritage to-day. The best is forever yours, and **God cooperates with you** if you but diligently seek Him. You are of God, and so should you walk.

Ideals Are Valuable as Incentives

MAY FIFTEEN

ONE of the most important things in the building of personal character is to correct in yourself every fault as promptly as you discover it. Willingly to acknowledge your faults is a first step to eliminating them. Persistent faults and weaknesses must be persistently combated and corrected. Look at your faults **fearlessly and critically**. Do not let your weak qualities dominate your life. Your best self is represented by your best qualities. Live therefore according to the best that is in you, and make every day contribute something substantial to your highest development. **Ideals are valuable as incentives**, but their real and enduring worth is the measure in which they lead you to actual achievement.

Work on Clear and Definite Lines

MAY SIXTEEN

AVOID the common habit of undertaking too many things at a time. **Do one thing well** and you will be better prepared to undertake the next thing. By this method you will **avoid confusion and anxiety**. Take time to do what is best and most important for you to do. Be particularly vigilant against squandering time on trifles. The more you work along clear and definite lines **the more you will accomplish**. Attempting only one thing at a time and doing it thoroughly will bring a satisfying sense of progress. Make it your special object to finish at least one definite worth-while thing each day. Clearly outline a single purpose in your mind and be quite sure that you achieve it. It is surprising how such daily undertakings will multiply into **something great and gratifying**.

Use the Power of Self-Suggestion

MAY SEVENTEEN

JUST as you are unconsciously influenced by outside advertisement, announcement, and appeal, so you can vitally influence your life from within by auto-suggestion. The first thing each morning, and the last thing each night, **suggest to yourself specific ideas** which you wish to embody in your character and personality. Address such suggestions to yourself, silently or aloud, until they are deeply impressed upon your mind. **Repeat them many times**, and continue the exercise daily until you are satisfied that the desired ideas are being materialized. As you use the power of self-suggestion, you will realize more fully its wonderful influence in developing **purpose, diligence, accuracy, definiteness**, and other valuable personal qualities.

Your Life Is Built on Faith

MAY EIGHTEEN

IT is generally recognized that faith is a great vital force in the conduct of human affairs. It plays an essential part in business, education, medicine, politics, science, and religion. **Faith is the master-key** to great discovery, invention, and achievement. Faith is not blindness, supposition, credulity, or ordinary belief. Belief is of the intellect, **faith is of the soul.** Faith overleaps all visible horizons. Daily you act and walk by faith rather than by sight. You are constantly exercising faith whether you are conscious of it or not. **Your life is built on faith.** The antidote for worry, fear, anxiety, doubt, discontent, and other disturbing elements is a supreme faith in God, in men, and in yourself.

Think About the Things You Want

MAY NINETEEN

STOP thinking of the things you don't want, and **think more about the things you do want.** Stop thinking and talking about war, armaments, dreadnoughts, disaster, poverty, hard times, bad luck, panic, crime, evil, failure, suicide, discord, disease, and death. Think and talk more about peace, plenty, health, life, opportunity, confidence, happiness, progress, power, prosperity, achievement, truth, success, justice, and righteousness. **Your thoughts help to make the world what it is.** Try to make the world what it should be. Substitute cooperation for competition, love for hate, trust for suspicion, peace for war, and service for selfishness. **Right thinking is the greatest power in the world** to establish peace and good-will among men.

Put Your Plan into Execution

MAY TWENTY

BEFORE you retire at night, **make a mental plan** of the important things you intend to do the next day. When you have a well-made plan, and earnestly resolve to fulfil it, you will accomplish more in less time and with less expenditure of energy than you would otherwise do. The essential thing is to **carry out your plan conscientiously**. Assuming that you have made it as a result of intelligent consideration, adhere to it strictly. Put purpose, resoluteness, and faith into your work, that every day may be highly productive. Great achievement is the sum of many small acts. Devote your superior abilities to significant things, so that you may ultimately realize a great life purpose. **Aspiration must precede achievement.**

Become Master of Your Moods

MAY TWENTY-ONE

YOU are frequently subjected to mental tests, when you must choose what course to take. A mood of depression creeps over you, or a sense of disappointment would make you captive. Submit to it, and it will possibly master you. Reason it out quietly and logically, and you can deprive it of its power to enslave you. Just as wrong thinking has brought depression or disappointment to you, so **right thinking can emancipate you** from its influence. Take ample time for meditation, that your thoughts may deepen and mature. Realize that you serve your best ultimate interests by promptly ridding your mind of every discordant thought, and that persistent effort of the right kind will surely make you **master of your moods and circumstances.**

Realize the Joy of Hard Work

MAY TWENTY-TWO

THE worst thing that can befall you is to have nothing useful to do.

From that moment life will be an aimless, aching void, and time a cruel torturer. The man who has not experienced **the joy of hard work** has lived in vain. A life of ease and sloth is a daily purgatory and a cause of widespread unhappiness. It is incomprehensible that in this **day of golden opportunity** there should be anyone, in good health, with nothing to work and live for. The joy of work, of daily conquest, of unexpected difficulties to overcome, of new enterprises—these make life interesting, worth while, and wholesome. Find your right vocation, put your best abilities to daily use, work cheerfully, willingly, and courageously, and you will know **the joy of true living.**

Make Definite Daily Progress

MAY TWENTY-THREE

INDECISION and inaction are foes to progress. When you are in doubt about an important course of conduct take time to consider it thoroughly. Cultivate a judicial mind and weigh all sides of the matter. Form your conclusions slowly and deliberately. Be prudent in your decisions. It is well to think and plan before you act, but once the way is clear to you, go forward with **promptitude, resolution, and confidence.** Definite daily steps in the right direction will bring you at length to the desired destination. A progressive life demands **initiative, effort, and purpose.** The law is use or lose. Today's opportunities will probably never come to you again. Other opportunities may come, but what they will be only time can disclose.

Conform Your Life to God's Plan

MAY TWENTY-FOUR

BE sincere in your self-judgment. If there is in you any moral imperfection, false pride, indolence, or indulgence, look at it fearlessly and **resolve to conform your life to God's perfect plan.** Do not defraud yourself by passing lightly over faults which you know should be eradicated from your nature. Subject yourself to **a rigid self-examination**, and having found the weak and imperfect things proceed to substitute and develop the qualities which distinguish greatness of character. Know precisely what you are now and what you intend to be. **Know your true motives.** Remember there is nothing finer than a spirit of sincere service, which gives generously without thought of recognition or return. True greatness lies in giving rather than in receiving.

Spiritualize Your Thought Habits

MAY TWENTY-FIVE

THE significance of your good thoughts may not now be wholly apparent to you, but as such thoughts are multiplied day by day there will come to you a realization of their value in producing greatness of character. Every good thought you think is contributing its share to the ultimate result of your life. **Constantly guard your mind**, therefore, against destructive ideas, and store it with helpful, progressive, constructive thoughts. The good thought you think is its own reward, since every such thought has an uplifting influence upon your life. Obviously the only remedy for wrong thoughts is the substitution of right thoughts. As your thought becomes spiritualized, you will wish to give more **love, loyalty, and service to God**.

Cultivate Constructive Thought

MAY TWENTY-SIX

IN your consciousness you conduct the great commerce of daily thought.

Every thought you think and cultivate contributes something to the sum total of your life. Your mind has a certain capacity for thought. To clear your mind of erroneous, useless, destructive thoughts, **substitute and diligently cultivate right thoughts.** Take one wrong thought at a time and patiently substitute for it the opposite right thought. The divine counsel is to overcome evil with good. This is the supreme command. If the offense comes in the form of injustice, envy, suspicion, selfishness, dishonesty, or revenge, instantly apply **the remedy of thinking only good** and the seeming miracle will take place. You can demonstrate this truth for yourself.

Your Mind Grows Through Use

MAY TWENTY-SEVEN

THOUGHT is the greatest power in the world, therefore be a serious thinker. Daily train yourself to think clearly, deeply, accurately. Be a student of serious subjects. Set apart a few minutes daily for profound and concentrated meditation. Do not take important things for granted, but examine causes and effects for yourself. **Your mind grows through use.** Select an important problem, and study it carefully until you have found a satisfactory solution. You should have an hour for special mental gymnastics every day, bringing all your faculties into full play and activity. **Thought is supreme** in all successful business, invention, enterprise, and achievement. **Thought is the greatest power in the world.**

Make Sure and Definite Progress

MAY TWENTY-EIGHT

PUT into actual practise now the splendid things you confidently expect to do at some future time, and your life will be wonderfully transformed. Thousands of people have made the serious mistake of thinking that at a more favorable time, or under other circumstances, they would radically change their habits, plans, methods, aims, and ideals. **The only real assurance** of your sincere desire to elevate your life is your willingness to initiate some of the desired changes now. This is the only intelligent course for you if you are to make sure and definite progress. Many a deferred resolution ends in nothing. What you think you will do some other time may never come to pass, but **what you accomplish to-day** is a substantial certainty.

Advance to Honorable Position

MAY TWENTY-NINE

PUT forever out of your mind all anxious and self-limiting thoughts. Bend your best efforts toward the big and essential things of life. Intelligent aspiration, coupled with diligent work, will steadily advance you to **high and honorable position**. There are wonderful powers and possibilities within you waiting to be utilized. Make definite choice to-day of the material you intend to use from this great inner storehouse. Draw generously, since you can not possibly exhaust the supply. When you realize fully **the immense and inexhaustible mental resources** at your command, you will not look to other men for assistance. Your personal powers are sufficient to give you a distinguished place in the world.

Use Words With Discrimination

MAY THIRTY

BEWARE the squandering of words. Have times of silence and times of speech. Avoid extremes. It is better to be silent much than to talk much. Talkativeness is depleting to both talker and listener. When you are inclined to verbosity, put a seal upon your lips and take mental stock of yourself. The words you use **proclaim you to the world.** They disclose unmistakably your taste, temperament, education, ideals, and degree of culture. Choose words with the same discrimination that you choose friends. Realize the significance and power of words as living things. Study words daily and always use them worthily. Correct a fault in your speech the instant you detect it. **Eternal vigilance** is the price of great accomplishment.

Make Every Day Count for Progress

MAY THIRTY-ONE

DO not let trifles disturb your tranquillity of mind. The little pin-pricks of daily life when dwelt upon and magnified, may do great damage, but if ignored or dismissed from thought, will disappear from inanition. Most men have worried about things which never happened, and more men have been killed by worry than by hard work. Life is so great in its **opportunities and possibilities**, that you should rise confidently above the inevitable trifles incident to daily contact with the world. Life is too precious to be sacrificed for the non-essential and transient. Stand up in the supremacy of your manhood, claim your birthright, dare to go forward, ignore the inconsequential, **make every day count for progress**, and so will you prosper.

Analyze Your Motives and Habits

JUNE ONE

MAKE a practical plan for your spiritual culture. Put it in writing, and once you have decided it is the best plan you can make, adhere strictly to it. Carefully analyze **your motives and impulses**, to determine which should be encouraged and which restrained. A definite plan will enable you to resist undesirable tendencies and to pursue intelligently **the essentials of spiritual development**. The highest purpose of your life is to grow in spiritual grace, strength, and symmetry. There are noble powers within you which give assurance of immensely larger things than you have yet realized. Goodness, righteousness, and truth are fruits of the Spirit, and as you cultivate these supreme qualities you will **grow in likeness to God**.

Reason Out Things for Yourself

JUNE TWO

CULTIVATE beliefs. Through earnest study and investigation translate your opinions into convictions. Look deeply into important subjects. Be thorough in your mental habits. Accustom yourself to trace out successive steps from cause to conclusion. Be sure to have adequate reasons for your beliefs. Broadly see all sides of a subject. **Search out truth for its own value**, not for display. Realize the importance of having settled convictions about the great subjects of life. Take the necessary time to reason out things for yourself, and to secure clear, definite, well-supported ideas. Make a written list of your leading opinions, beliefs, and convictions. Study them closely, and correct everything doubtful or erroneous.

Your Direct Alliance with God

JUNE THREE

DIVINE mind is omnipresent. The Mind of God fills all space and is therefore always available. When you think a good thought, you reflect the Infinite Mind from which all good emanates. **Spiritual things are spiritually discerned.** True wisdom comes from meditation upon spiritual ideas. Justice, truth, mercy, love, goodness, and purity, are fruits of the spirit. The solution of your personal problems is to seek first the Infinite Mind for ideas of truth and righteousness and to use them in your daily life. **Divine Mind is always ready to cooperate with you,** and to assist you in every right undertaking. Once assured of this direct alliance with God you will tend to do everything with relation to Him.

Exercise Your Own Faculties

JUNE FOUR

IN order to develop great intellectual power you must exercise your own faculties. Knowledge which you acquire through your own diligence and application will become your most useful and permanent possession. When you pay the price of personal labor and perseverance for your knowledge, you will more fully appreciate its value. Teachers can do much, but there can not be great intellectual culture without indefatigable work on the part of the student. Self-imposed tasks of difficulty are an effective means to mental growth and culture. **Your most substantial mental progress** will depend principally upon your personal efforts. Continue the student habit throughout your life. An earnest mind is always learning.

Cultivate Desirable Qualities

JUNE FIVE

DON'T contradict, argue, interrupt, grumble, gossip, antagonize, boast, offend, contend, insinuate, retaliate, deprecate, irritate, intimidate, exaggerate, equivocate, calumniate, resent, retort, reproach, ridicule, resist, coerce, disparage, dissemble, wrangle, malign, misjudge, harangue, slander, embarrass, vilify, assail, or misrepresent. **Learn to praise, enjoy, affirm, approve, appreciate, serve, reverence, commend, agree, admire, please, encourage, sympathize, yield, reciprocate, accede, forgive, help, recommend, esteem, give, honor, stimulate, acquiesce, respect, protect, befriend, gladden, uphold, accommodate, cheer, console, uplift, compliment, benefit, strengthen, comfort, inspirit, and inspire.**

Plan Better and Achieve More

JUNE SIX

DELIBERATENESS does not mean to dally, nor to squander time. To do things deliberately is to proceed with **regularity, poise, and system.** There are daily routine matters which should be disposed of briskly, but not in nervous haste. The habit of deliberateness can be combined advantageously with energy and promptitude. As you realize the fleeting character of time, and the small number of actual working hours in the day, you will **plan better and accomplish more.** Impulse and haste are responsible for many mistakes and disappointments. Deliberateness confers the advantages of self-mastership. There are times when you should increase your ordinary pace, but even then be sure to **keep your serenity and self-possession.**

Your Opportunities and Privileges

JUNE SEVEN

WASTE no time over vain regrets, losses, or disappointments. **Be grateful for present opportunities and privileges.** Bend your mind and energies to the work that now lies before you. The remedy for worry, anxiety, and fear is to have new interests and responsibilities. To-day offers you ample pursuits, pleasures, and problems to engage your best powers. Take all reasonable measures to avoid repetition of past mistakes, plan intelligently, and **be hopeful of the best results.** Be a sensible optimist, realize your immense resources, carry yourself confidently, work industriously, and **be assured all will be well with you.** Keep your mind open to truth. Right thinking always yields a harvest of right results.

Have a Mental Housecleaning

JUNE EIGHT

AT the close of each day, **critically examine your thoughts and acts** and note wherein you have done well or otherwise. Daily self-examination will enable you to remedy any defects in your personality. The ledger of your life is a more important matter than your bank-book. What you have added to the credit of your character at the end of the day is of vastly greater value than the number of dollars you have accumulated. **What you have carried to the credit of your soul** at the end of your earthly life will count for more than accumulated lands and money. Have a mental housecleaning every little while. Look into the corners of your mind and **clear out accumulated mental rubbish.** Be vigilant and thorough in eliminating every useless thought.

Closely Scrutinize Your Beliefs

JUNE NINE

YOUR beliefs largely govern you, whether they are true or not. An erroneous belief may lead you into most disastrous results. The more tenaciously you hold to false beliefs the more injurious will be their destructive influence in your life. Many intelligent men frankly acknowledge that they do not want the false and untrue, but are unwilling to make the effort to understand and apply the truth. **Closely scrutinize your beliefs**, and be eager to strengthen them where they are weak and to change them where they are wrong. Truth is the only basis upon which to found beliefs that will serve you in all the varied experiences of life. **Truth is the solid rock** upon which to build a life of happiness.

Take God Into Close Partnership

JUNE TEN

WHEN a man has a clear and vital realization of his eternal alliance with God, his daily life will be filled with uplifted thought, earnest work, and high ideals. He will carry with him an indescribable sense of confidence and happiness, and an unwavering faith equal to every opportunity, emergency, and obligation. The privilege of knowing God, of sharing in his love and truth, of communing with him anywhere at any time, belongs to every man. Hence it is that every man chooses for himself whether or not he will take God into intimate partnership in his daily thoughts and affairs. Thousands of Christian men have demonstrated the practical value of a close alliance with God, and of looking solely to him for guidance and wisdom.

Silence Gives Rest and Power

JUNE ELEVEN

GREAT is the power of silence. There is nothing more eloquent than the still, small voice of conscience. Think of the silent growth of the giant forest. The world upon which you now stand is whirling silently through space. The greatest forces of nature are silent. **How wonderful is the silent power of truth,** constantly at work, without effort, sound, or confusion. Only man is wasteful, prodigally squandering words, speech, and effort. Silence will help you to solve the most difficult personal problems. **Silence is golden.** Silence will give you rest from inordinate ambition and desire. Silence promotes quietness of spirit. The more you cultivate a spirit of inward silence, the better you will have intercourse with God.

The Importance of Drinking Water

JUNE TWELVE

DRINK copiously of pure water. Drink six or more glasses of water daily between meals. Do not neglect this important habit. Drink a glass of water the first thing on rising and the last thing on retiring. **Pure water cleanses and renews the system.** It is one of the best and most available means for keeping the body pure and healthy. Always drink slowly. Appreciate the value of pure water, and enjoy it as you drink it. In ill-health drink distilled water. Avoid extremely hot or cold drinks. At home, in the office, or elsewhere, arrange to have a proper supply of pure drinking water as an indispensable aid to good health. Once you have formed this habit you will appreciate **its practical value and importance.**

As You Think, So You Build

JUNE THIRTEEN

MAKE an inventory of your mental assets. Take stock of yourself and know precisely what you are doing with your thought, time, talents, and energy. **Put your mind in order.** Thought rules the world. Everything that is wrought out in material form is first constructed in the mind. As you think, so you build. **Store your mind daily** with great thoughts of great thinkers. Frequent contact with master minds will elevate your taste and enlarge your intellectual outlook. Realize your responsibility to maintain a constantly high standard of thought. Thoroughly discipline your desires, habits, and efforts. Give some time regularly to mental and moral culture, that you may **grow in aspiration and achievement.** There is nothing really commonplace to a lofty intellect.

The Quickening Power of Wisdom

JUNE FOURTEEN

A GREAT statesman attributed his **uniform serenity of mind** to this motto hung at the foot of his bed where he could read it every day: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." **The quickening power of a wise saying**, or a great promise, is inestimable. There are thousands of beautiful mottoes which inspire a drooping spirit with new faith and courage. All that is sometimes needed to bridge a difficulty, or solve a serious problem, is **a little more self-reliance**. The study of great sayings enriches the mind, develops the character, and gives a sense of self-confidence so necessary to successful work. Literature is filled with wisdom for your personal betterment.

The Significance of Your Life

JUNE FIFTEEN

THE highest conception of God is that He is a Being of infinite life, love, goodness, wisdom, and power. The highest conception of man is that he is made in the image of God, and reflects, in degree, the qualities of his Maker. As you more fully realize this exalted alliance, you will feel a sense of **increased power and responsibility**. You will more earnestly seek to do better and bigger things with your God-given abilities. You will have a clearer sense of **the significance and possibilities** of your life. You will wish to prove worthy of your high calling. You will become more obedient to the divine will. God being all-intelligent knows all about you, knows how to guide, counsel, guard, and protect you. **Keep close to God.**

Direct Your Energy Wisely

JUNE SIXTEEN

FEW persons can afford to indulge in worry, since it is an extravagant habit. It costs much, while it produces nothing by way of useful results. **Nine-tenths of the things worried about never happen.** Worries are principally of two kinds; of things you can not help, or of things you can help. If you can not help them, **worry is obviously unavailing and useless.** If you can help them, intelligence would indicate that you take definite steps to remedy them. In most cases, if the thought and time spent in anxiety and regret were directed to earnest effort in improving present conditions, the useless worry would disappear of itself. Worry is not a necessary evil, but valuable energy misdirected. **Cultivate contentment through occupation.**

Prove Your Greatness of Character

JUNE SEVENTEEN

YOU have never before had so many **opportunities and incentives** summoning you to large effort. What you do with your present chances, abilities, and inspirations, you will be likely to do with larger powers in time to come. Prove the greatness of the qualities within you by **earnest and enthusiastic effort** this day. Procrastination is not only the thief of time, but of ambition, initiative, and courage. Do not mislead yourself into believing that under other circumstances, or in a different environment, you could and would do better. In your present position you can **prove your greatness of character**. Right where you are at this moment is the place to begin your best work and to **translate your good intentions into actual deeds.**

Build Supreme Personal Qualities

JUNE EIGHTEEN

MAKE a list of the personal qualities which you know have been characteristic of eminently successful men. You will likely set down such as these: Industry, concentration, self-reliance, integrity, patience, cheerfulness, common sense, energy, self-confidence, tact, enthusiasm, determination, diligence, decision, definiteness, pluck, tenacity, and stability. When you have made a complete list, **submit yourself to a rigid examination** to determine approximately in what degree you have already developed these qualities within yourself. This is a practical plan for uncovering possible weaknesses, and of **knowing where to concentrate your efforts** toward self-improvement. You can turn this suggestion to your immediate advantage.

Faith Gives Assurance of Success

JUNE NINETEEN

BUILD your faith sufficiently and there is no reasonable achievement beyond your powers.

Faith is a vital part of every great enterprise. Faith is the master key which unlocks the doors of opportunity. Faith is the power which enables you to undertake every duty with confidence in the final results. **Faith always tends to mental and physical health.** Faith illuminates the pathway and dissipates shadows and suspicions. Faith encourages you to persevere in face of doubt and difficulty. **Faith gives assurance of success** tho the day looks dark and dreary. Give more of your time to the study and development of faith, and your whole life will become **vitalized, broadened, and elevated.**

Suggestions for Building Health

JUNE TWENTY

PHYSICAL exercises, intended to build vitality and endurance, should be **slow, smooth, regular, and rhythmical**. Special apparatus is not necessary and often undesirable. The best exercises are done with the arms and legs, combining stretching, relaxing, and tensing movements. Violent exercise may lead to muscle stiffness, and should be avoided. The tired business or professional man sometimes needs **change and relaxation** rather than strenuous physical exercise. Extreme fatigue is detrimental to robust health. The man of fifty may need a gentler form of exercise than the man of thirty. Moderation should be the rule here as in other things. **Fresh air is an indispensable ally of good health.**

Summer Is the Time of Gladness

JUNE TWENTY-ONE

IT is the glad summertime! Days of flowers, sunshine, and blue skies. Days of beauty, freedom, and joyousness. Days of perfume, sweetness, and music. Mountains, skies, seas, forests, and valleys in all their ineffable charm and harmony. **Nature in full and perfect bloom**, showering her gifts with lavish prodigality. Fragrant blossoms, crystal streams, dancing shadows, wooing winds, warbling birds, lowing herds, and everywhere the note of unaffected contentment and happiness. **It is the world's holiday time.** It is the most beautiful of all seasons, with its foliage and flowers, brightening fields, wistful skies, and dreamy and magical lights. Summer is the singing, dancing, joy-making time of the human heart.

Make a Good Beginning To-day

JUNE TWENTY-TWO

LIFE is fleeting. Now is the time to initiate your new plan. To-day is the day to attempt the great and worthy purpose which you have long had in contemplation. Delays are dangerous. Procrastination weakens purpose. Seize your opportunity while it is within your reach. Put forth your most earnest effort, and **good results will surely follow.** The instant you attempt something fine and great you are on the way to its realization. All great achievement is a series of progressive steps. All great men have first put forth small efforts, which have led to large works and results. Let this encourage you to **make a vigorous beginning to-day,** so that your dreams and aspirations may become actualized in your life.

Think Good Thoughts All the Time

JUNE TWENTY-THREE

SYSTEMATICALLY cultivate **the habit of right thinking.** Substitute good thought for evil thought and the latter will be gradually eliminated. Do not parley nor compromise with any kind of wrong thought. The only way to get rid of it effectually is through the power of right thinking. If it is a desirable thing to think good thoughts part of the time, it is a desirable thing to think good thoughts all the time, and it is just as easy to think right thoughts as it is to think wrong thoughts. **The habit of right thinking** will confer upon you inestimable advantages and blessings. When you think right and do right, your daily life will assume **a new and larger significance.** True independence and self-confidence are based upon right thinking.

The Right Use of Conversation

JUNE TWENTY-FOUR

IT is a good rule never to flatly contradict another. There are polite ways of dissenting. You may use such ingratiating phrases as, "Have you thought of this view of the matter?" "What do you think of so-and-so's opinion?" "Some one has suggested this idea," or "It might be well to consider this aspect of the question."

Conversation should not antagonize by contradiction or the use of injudicious expressions. Guard yourself assiduously against everything in word or manner which might cause friction between you and the listener. Observe the methods of popular speakers and profit by their example. Conversation should not be used for enforcing personal opinions, but for the courteous interchange of pleasant and helpful ideas.

Cultivate Your Mental Garden

JUNE TWENTY-FIVE

TO cultivate a beautiful garden you must uproot all weeds and other unlovely things. This is best done not by sitting down and studying the origin of such weeds, and ascertaining their names and number, but **by patient and diligent work** in pulling them up by the roots and ridding your garden of them forever. Likewise to cultivate a beautiful mind you must uproot and cast from you all mental weeds and other unlovely thoughts, such as pride, envy, impatience, fear, resentment, and selfishness. Then you must **plant and carefully cultivate** in your mental garden seeds of kindness, goodness, love, purity, humility, reverence, and righteousness. As you persevere in this work, your mind will **gradually unfold into beauty and fragrance**, and your life will be blest.

Keep a Clear Purpose Before You

JUNE TWENTY-SIX

BE grateful for the opportunity to work and serve. Keep a definite purpose before you, and bend to its accomplishment your best abilities. Put the strength of your mind and personality into the urgent duty of the hour, that it may be well and thoroughly done. Good work is a divine provision for developing in you initiative, self-reliance, diligence, and other sterling qualities. Do what you have to do in a true spirit of gladness and gratitude, make the fresh beginning of this day an occasion for stronger and better resolutions, and let the close of the day witness to your new acquisitions, graces, and accomplishments. **To-day belongs to you**, with its inestimable opportunities for work, achievement, and human helpfulness.

How to Rid Yourself of Worry

JUNE TWENTY-SEVEN

WHEN you feel a mood of worry or depression stealing over you, take a quick bath, stretch yourself out flat on the bed, and relax your entire body. Take deep abdominal breaths, raise first one arm, then the other, letting them drop limply at the sides. Repeat the exercise with each leg. After you have thoroughly relaxed your body, call to mind a happy incident of your life and dwell upon it. **Soon you will realize that your worry has disappeared.** As you continue to substitute uplifting and constructive thoughts, your depression will gradually dissolve into nothingness where it belongs. The best time to annihilate worry is when it first appears. Do not parley with it. **Strike quickly and the victory is yours.**

Maintain a Right Mental Attitude

JUNE TWENTY-EIGHT

FORM the habit of standing and sitting erect at all times.

Frequently remind yourself to straighten your spine. Resist the common tendency to lounge. When you are erect the organs of your body more freely and naturally perform their functions. Moreover an upright carriage is an indication of self-respect and personal dignity. **Make the most of yourself.** Carry your head level, your shoulders well back, chest high, and always breathe deeply. **Maintain a right mental attitude,** so that it will reflect itself in the way you stand, sit, and walk. Remember, too, that hopeful thoughts and high ideals have a direct and uplifting effect upon your body, and that to travel optimistically is to speed your footsteps.

Cultivate a Yielding Disposition

JUNE TWENTY-NINE

THREE is no more valuable lesson for you to learn than that of patiently bearing opposition. When you express an opinion, welcome contrary ideas as a means of confirming your opinion if it is valid and of correcting it if it is wrong. Self-opinionated people often close their minds to wisdom and lose valuable opportunities for advancement toward truth. It is well to weigh both sides of a subject before you reach a final decision.

Cultivate a yielding disposition. The truth can not be monopolized. If you are right you can afford to be patient with one who is wrong. If you are sincerely seeking the truth, you will always give a ready and patient ear to the views of others. **Truth never fears opposition.**

Essential Steps to Knowledge

JUNE THIRTY

THE principal object of your reading should be for the acquisition of useful knowledge, and the strengthening, refining, and ennobling of your character. Discriminate in your choice between good books and the best books. It is an excellent plan to have a great book always at your ready hand for convenient reading. Thus you can turn to good account many odd moments which otherwise would be squandered. It is surprizing how even a little daily reading, continued for a few weeks or months, will multiply into something highly productive. The great books of the world's master minds are at your service, to use for your mental and spiritual culture. Three essential steps to knowledge are **realization, assimilation, and utilization.**

God's Infinite Supply of Thoughts

JULY ONE

FLOWERS are symbols of God's thoughts. The symmetry and sweetness of the tiniest flower is an expression of God's miraculous power. When you dwell upon a beautiful blossom you are listening to the voice of God who speaks to you through the multiform manifestations of flower and foliage. God's expression is always eloquent, harmonious, and perfect. **It is your inestimable privilege** to draw upon His infinite supply of thoughts and to use them as your own. As you look upon bud and blossom, tree and mountain, sky and sea, listen to the voice of God that you may hear the divine messages which they convey. The beauty and power of nature all about you tell a **wondrous story of God's love and wisdom.**

Culture Is of the Mind and Heart

JULY TWO

THE sovereign remedy for every discordant and undesirable condition in your life is within yourself. The primary cause of depression, worry, anxiety, sin, failure, fear, and doubt is mental. Determine resolutely to rid yourself of the enemies lurking in the recesses of your own mind. Take stock of your mental assets, motives, and habits. Correct or eliminate everything in your inner life which retards your best progress. **Keep a high ideal constantly before you** to stimulate your best powers into activity. Character and culture are inseparable. Greatness can not be successfully counterfeited. The sources of nobility are within. Your character is the product of your daily thought and aspiration. **Culture is of the mind and heart.**

Charm and Nobility of Character

JULY THREE

CHARM is an innate quality of mind and heart, and an expression of a beautiful attitude toward life. Courtesy can be cultivated, but charm is largely an unconscious possession. Manners are often an exterior polish, assumed for occasion and circumstance, but charm is intrinsic and spontaneous. **Charm is akin to culture**, and it is impossible to have either one in high degree without the other. While charm is innate, it can in degree be cultivated. But to do so **it is necessary to go directly to inner sources**, to give special attention to the development of the graces of kindness, sincerity, integrity and nobility. Charm almost baffles definition, yet it is quickly recognized by the world.

Live Now Your Highest Life

JULY FOUR

DELIBERATELY develop in yourself the supreme habits which make for true greatness of life. Many a habit forms involuntarily, and plays its part in determining the degree of your success. Be on your guard, therefore, in the important matter of habit-making, and be quite sure that you are **using each day's opportunities** to the best advantage. Habit has been well described as a cable, weaving only a thread at a time, but at last so strong that it can not easily be broken. Eliminate in yourself every weak and undesirable habit. Take a determined stand for everything which enlarges and ennobles your mind. Resolve to **live your highest possible life** where you are to-day. Take stock of your habits. Character comes from repeated choice.

Let Divine Truth Guide You

JULY FIVE

YOUR life is the product of repeated thoughts. A good life is a record of good thoughts. The more you multiply good thoughts the better your life will be. Good thoughts produce health and happiness. As all good comes from God, **you must go to God for your supply of good.** The habit of daily reading the Bible will store your mind with rich treasures of divine wisdom. Proverbs, the Psalms, and the Gospels, will give you truth, instruction, and inspiration. Let divine truth guide you in all your thoughts, plans, and ideals. God is the infinite source of supply, and **He pours forth His riches to you** in abundant measure, and they are yours to take if you will. He that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Conserve Your Personal Powers

JULY SIX

IT is the petty pin-pricks of daily life which do the most mischief. Doing avoidable and unnecessary things squanders mental and physical vitality. The energy and earnestness you apply to large tasks does not deplete your force. The strain comes from nervousness, anger, irritability, haste, worry, and excitement. **Be on your guard** against leakages of nerve force. Resolve to carry into your daily work and activities the equanimity of solitude. **Make a careful plan** for your personal guidance, and try to live up to it under all circumstances. Conserve your mental and physical vitality as you would your bank capital. **Large reserves are necessary to large enterprises.** Stores of strength will give you confidence born of power.

Be Faithful to Your High Trust

JULY SEVEN

A COMPLETE philosophy of life is comprised in three gospels: The Gospel of Christ, the gospel of hard work, and the gospel of good cheer. Live strictly up to these three gospels in your every-day life and you will get **the best that is possible** in this world. The first is as enduring as eternity, the second brings certain reward, the third confers health and happiness, and the three combined yield the only true success. Study these three gospels carefully, realize their vital importance, and make them **significant factors in your personal life.** Appreciate your opportunities for self-development and service to others. And remember that the crowning glory of achievement awaits everyone who performs his work faithfully to the end.

Accumulate Reserves of Power

JULY EIGHT

FULLY realize that worry, resentment, resistance, and nervousness are destructive and disintegrating influences, and you will wish to eliminate them from your life. To accumulate great reserves of physical vitality, it is necessary to **avoid all undue nervous strain, tension, and excitement.** Hurry, worry, and anxiety tend to defeat the object in view. The best results are secured by a uniform attitude of **poise, calmness, and self-control.** Several times a day consciously relax your mind and body. Then give yourself a silent or audible treatment of positive affirmations. Confidently assert **your right to health, harmony, and happiness.** Resolve that under all circumstances you will maintain a mental attitude of poise.

Fortune Favors the Forearmed

JULY NINE

ORDINARY abilities, coupled with application and perseverance, often achieve extraordinary results. **Fortune favors the forearmed.** It is wonderful how the most serious problems and difficulties are solved through earnest and painstaking industry. The lives of the world's great men are records of incessant and intelligent effort. **The power of perseverance is incalculable.** It is an obvious truth that you do not know what you can do until you try. It is equally true that you can not adequately estimate the great fields open to you until you have ascended the heights for advantageous observation. The capacity for hard work is an element of genius. **There is really nothing too great for a highly courageous mind.**

Persevere Toward a Great Ideal

JULY TEN

THE practical work of life demands constant and intelligent effort. Men who depend solely upon good luck or random chance to attain success are usually disappointed. There is a large element of happiness in the discipline which comes from conscientious labor. The fine qualities which are recognized as **essential to successful business** are of great value in the social and other spheres of human intercourse. The world tacitly condemns the man of idleness, and confers its highest honors upon the indefatigable worker. Indolence is degrading, while industry is elevating. To take an active part among the world's workers is an honor in itself. One of the richest gifts of life is the desire and ability to **work diligently and earnestly for a great ideal.**

The Value of Cheerfulness

JULY ELEVEN

CHEERFULNESS is a tonic for the mind and body. It has a directly beneficial influence upon the blood, nerves, and physical organs. Cheerfulness is a valuable business asset. It is one of the greatest forces in winning and keeping friends. Cheerfulness, the co-partner of optimism, **radiates confidence and enthusiasm** wherever it projects its penetrating power. Cheerfulness is the antidote to worry, fear, discouragement, perplexity, and discord. Cheerfulness gives mental alertness, serenity of mind, and broadened sympathies. Cheerfulness brings contentment and tranquility, safeguarding its possessor from inordinate ambition, and the mental strain of haste and anxiety. **Daily affirmations of cheerfulness** build life and vigor.

Develop Your Superior Qualities

JULY TWELVE

IT is instructive to study the people around you, to talk with them, listen to them, and to form your silent estimate of their ways and characteristics. But just as you analyze and study other people, they do the same with you. Hence the importance of **developing your superior qualities**, and giving them spontaneous expression in your daily life. The world is passing its silent judgment upon you, and every word you utter, every expression of face and body, every mannerism, habit, and mood, is contributing its share, however small, **to the total impression you are making upon others.** Be careful, therefore, about your ways, sayings, opinions, manners, habits, and personal characteristics, that you may have **the approval of your fellow men.**

With God All Things Are Possible

JULY THIRTEEN

GOD is love. God is a spirit, and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. With God all things are possible. The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. **Trust in the Lord with all thine heart**, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart. Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And **the peace of God which passeth all understanding**, shall keep your heart and mind through Christ Jesus.

Cultivate the Habit of Listening

JULY FOURTEEN

LISTEN and learn. Your mind must be quiet and receptive if you are to appropriate the best thoughts of other people. It is impossible for you to generate and develop great ideas within your own mind while you are in a state of constant activity and expression. When you listen attentively and meditate much, **you will learn most from others** and give your own thoughts opportunity to mature. There are many persons anxious to speak, but only an occasional one willing to listen. To be a good listener does not mean over-reticence, but simply the ability to be silently interested when occasion makes it desirable. There are many blunders due to talkativeness, but few to taciturnity. What you do not say is not likely to do harm. **Listen and learn.**

High Thinking and Right Living

JULY FIFTEEN

PERSONAL example of high thinking and right living is one of the greatest services you can render to your fellow men. Unconsciously you are influencing the lives of those about you, hence a deep responsibility rests upon you to make the most of yourself at all times. The world's highly distinguished men have invariably set their light upon a hill where it illuminated mankind. It is impossible to estimate the far-reaching effects of a useful, exemplary, consecrated life. **Take your lofty place in the world**, and resolve that your daily example shall influence and inspire other men to great and noble purpose. It is your profound privilege and duty to use your abilities and opportunities for the advancement of God's kingdom.

Acquire the Habit of Giving

JULY SIXTEEN

ACQUIRE the giving habit. Give intelligently, freely, liberally. Give money, books, merchandise, counsel, sympathy, and inspiration. Give something every day. Cultivate the giving habit as you do the saving habit. **Give out of the fulness of your heart**, not with expectation of return or gratitude, but because it is right to give. There is no greater joy in life than to render happiness to others by means of intelligent giving. Never before in the world has there been so much generous, sympathetic and unselfish service. It is the spirit of the supreme giver, the Christ who gave His life that men might know the way to the Father. You owe it to your highest self to **give every day as you are able.**

Cultivate Uniform Cheerfulness

JULY SEVENTEEN

IT is a sure sign of greatness if you can rise cheerfully and confidently above a personal loss, misfortune, or disappointment. However dark the present day may be, there is always the prospective sunshine of the morrow. Severe trial is often the most valuable discipline. Pain itself is a beneficent warning of nature that you should change some habit. Sorrow sometimes seems to be only a grievous burden, yet many persons have emerged from it purified as if by fire. It is well to cultivate a philosophy of **cheerfulness and healthy optimism** to sustain you through times of inevitable trial. You can find good in every person and circumstance, and you will be most likely to find that for which you look. In seeking the good of others **you will find your own good.**

Choose Your Life Ideals

JULY EIGHTEEN

DWELL more and more upon thoughts of what you really want in your life. Close and hermetically seal the door of your mind against thoughts of what you do not want in your life. You desire health, vitality, wisdom, peace, confidence, hope, friendship, harmony, independence, serenity, cheerfulness, happiness, success, culture, and righteousness. Give your thought to these and kindred subjects, since by dwelling upon them often and intently tends to **make them concrete in your life.** Waste no thought upon things you do not want. Do not worry about things you do not need. The power is yours to choose the ideals that shall daily possess and govern your mental life. When your mind is right **your life will be right.**

Recognize and Use God's Thoughts

JULY NINETEEN

YOU are distinctly assured that **in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.** There is to be no undue haste nor anxiety about your relation to God. You are admonished to be quiet and fear not. As you daily connect yourself with the divine source of all love, truth, and goodness, you will learn to trust God absolutely for your guidance and protection. **The spiritual law is available to you now,** and as you apply it in your daily activities you will be increasingly conscious of unlimited supply for all your needs. The eternal mind of God is pouring forth a stream of perfect spiritual ideas for your enlightenment, protection, and happiness. **God's thoughts are yours** in the measure that you recognize and use them.

Concentrate Upon Essential Things

JULY TWENTY

IT is not the big blows, aimed full in the face, that hurt most, but the little petty annoyances and worries that beat against us with daily regularity. They seem trifling and unimportant, but how they wound, and worry, and sometimes kill. It is possible, however, to **rise above annoyances and disappointments**, by keeping the mind concentrated upon big, essential, fundamental ideas and purposes. It is a fatal thing to brood over your troubles, most of which are usually imaginary. If to-day appears to you dark and unpromising, **days of sunshine will surely follow.** Pleasure is enhanced by work, joy by sorrow, and success by seeming failure. There is so much good work to do that **you really have no time for worry or anxiety.**

Plan, Conserve, and Concentrate

JULY TWENTY-ONE

PRUDENT planning prevents haste, waste, and inconvenience. When you have a work to do, an engagement to keep, an obligation to meet, or a service to render, prepare for it in ample time. **Provide for possibilities of delay or disappointment.** Some persons are in perpetual unrest because of haste and nervousness due to injudicious planning. They do not allow themselves sufficient margin of time, too often leave things to chance, and have little realization of the brevity of an hour. Anything done under nervous stress and excitement is almost sure to suffer in quality. The best work is accomplished by men of **poise and self-control**, who have learned to conserve their personal force and to concentrate it for the most effective results.

Develop Bigness of Daily Life

JULY TWENTY-TWO

YOUR severest tests will come at times of emergency. Then the truth and stability of your beliefs will be put to trial. You believe in God as an ever available help in time of need, and that He has power to heal, protect, guide, and save you. But an emergency arises,—sudden illness, financial reverse, loss of friend, special hardship, national calamity—and then your real character is suddenly revealed in all its strength or weakness. You are summoned to quick and definite decision. Then will be disclosed **the practical value of your beliefs and principles.** If you are equal to the test, your creed is justified. Think nobly and nobility will be manifested in your character. **Bigness of life is primarily bigness of spirit.**

Look to Spiritual Heights

JULY TWENTY-THREE

REILIGION has to do with **the refinement and ennobling** of your best faculties. It seeks to raise you from commonplace, material things to spiritual ideals. Surely it is only reasonable that you should devote some portion of each day to the study and contemplation of things which are eternal and enduring. Religion seeks to inculcate in you the divine qualities of **love, humility, and patience**, to bring you into consciously closer relationship to God, and to **direct your steps toward spiritual heights**. All the truly great men of the world have been highly religious, for religion and greatness are practically synonymous. As you study God's word, and apply His teaching to your daily life, you will experience **a new and uplifting joy in all you do**.

Confidently Leave Results to God

JULY TWENTY-FOUR

YOU will appreciate most that for which you work hardest. Fortunately the road to worthy achievement is neither smooth nor easy. Decision, determination, discipline, courage, self-denial, and industry are pre-requisites to great success. There is an attractive power in a man of initiative and industry. **The world pays homage** to the indefatigable worker. Men are drawn to him as to a magnet. He develops self-confidence and self-respect, while he is at the same time winning the admiration of others. Many of the most courageous men are those who work silently, systematically, and perseveringly, with no anxious thought about reward or recognition, content to do their work well and to **leave the results to God.**

Avoid Waste of Energy and Effort

JULY TWENTY-FIVE

WE are all on Life's Stairway, going up or down, all going somewhere. And the people! Some are ascending, their faces radiant with sunshine. Many others are climbing with faltering step and trembling heart. There are faces of arresting seriousness, and strong, honest faces that inspire weaker ones. **So many thousands need helping up!** What a thrilling spectacle, a never-ending panorama of human beings traveling toward destiny! See those coming down! A boisterous, careless, wild-eyed throng of pleasure-seeking, self-loving men and women. How fast they go! Two steps at a time and more—some are literally falling down! Heedless, dissipated, selfish, ignorant, a seething crowd of unfortunate human beings **traveling toward destiny!**

Realize Your God-given Powers

JULY TWENTY-SIX

YOUR thought is your most valuable possession, and your immediate help in all difficulties. Your personal achievement and ultimate success depend upon the kind and quality of your thoughts and the habitual way in which you think about yourself, your work, and your future. It is principally through the use of your thought that you ultimately commit yourself to success or failure. Realize more fully your God-given powers, your unlimited abilities, and your capacity for large development. It is not necessary for you to look outside for help, since you are a master in the making. Resolve to make the most of yourself, to set your best thoughts to work for you, to think more highly of your abilities and possibilities.

Be Conscious of Mental Growth

JULY TWENTY-SEVEN

TRUE progress means that you are daily growing stronger, better, and nobler, that you have an increasing desire for truth, justice, liberty, and righteousness. You will be most conscious of mental growth at times of deep meditation, when thoughts of unsuspected richness will come into clear view and urge themselves to be admitted into your active life. Herein, too, is **the value of prayer**, since in the silent communication with the source of truth, your greatest powers are stimulated and brought into fuller realization. Let no day pass without making it contribute its proper share to your development. Your life should be one of steady, constant, definite advancement in **knowledge, culture, and spiritual attainment**.

Think Daily on Spiritual Things

JULY TWENTY-EIGHT

THE divine teaching is explicit and emphatic, and he who runs may read: Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. Present your body a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. **Lay up for yourself treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind. The world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever. **Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord**, and whose hope the Lord is. He that overcometh shall inherit all things.

Good Work Speaks for Itself

JULY TWENTY-NINE

ONE of the most insistent things in life is that you are ultimately judged by what you actually accomplish. The busy world of workers gives scant attention to assertion, explanation, protest, apology, or complaint. What counts most is not promise, but performance. **Good work speaks for itself**, therefore achieve something first, and talk about it afterward if you must. Time spent in promises, regrets, and professions, is usually unavailing. The way to do things is not to dream about them, nor wish for them, but to do them. The distinguished men in all times have been prodigious workers, earnestly intent upon securing actual results. **The present age is intensely practical**, and more than ever the race is to the alert, the energetic, and the industrious.

Success Is Making Right Choice

JULY THIRTY

IT greatly speeds your progress to know definitely and clearly what you wish to accomplish. It enhances your possibilities of successful achievement to know yourself, your abilities, and the difficulties you may have to overcome. Many of the tragic failures of life are due to impulsive and ill-considered plans. It is better to spend months if necessary in careful contemplation of a new project, than to plunge headlong into inevitable failure. When you need outside advice, go directly to authorities. In an important enterprise **take nothing for granted**. Prudent foresight will save you from many a disaster. Success is often **the result of right choice**, rather than the possession of exceptional talents.

Play to Win, But Play Fair

JULY THIRTY-ONE

PLAY the game. Know the rules and observe them. Always play fair, no matter what the other man may do. Play to win. If you lose, be a good loser. But don't lose. Study life as you would a game of chess. Know the moves, dangers, difficulties, and rewards. Remember that **no allowance is made for ignorance**. If you don't know the moves and rules, you must learn them through discipline and experience. You must pay for mistakes. The game of life is intensely interesting, but to play it successfully demands **constant diligence, patience, and alertness**. If your opponent cheats or falsifies do not imitate him. The real joy of the game comes from an innate sense of integrity. Play to win, play hard, but always play honestly. **Play the game.**

Supreme Spiritual Counsel

AUGUST ONE

IT is more blessed to give than to receive. As you have opportunity, do good unto all men. Give to the poor. He which soweth bountifully, shall reap also bountifully. Give alms of such things as you have. **God loveth the cheerful giver.** Every man shall give as he is able. If your enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty give him water to drink. Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity. Freely ye have received, freely give. **All things whatsoever you would that men should do to you, do you even so to them.**

Make Use of Every Opportunity

AUGUST TWO

THREE is an eminent place for you to fill in the world. You can not, however, rise higher than your thoughts and aspirations. In order to reach the distinguished place which assuredly is possible, you must outline it definitely in your thought, dwell upon it frequently and intensely, and **bend your best energies toward its realization.** The cardinal requirements for achieving any great enterprise are alert intelligence, untiring industry, and stedfastness of purpose. Your progress largely depends upon having a receptive mind. Be eager to receive intelligent advice and suggestions for your personal advancement. Listen patiently to advice or criticism, and try to apply it practically. **Make use of every opportunity for self-improvement.**

Obey the Best Impulses Within You

AUGUST THREE

KEEP the door of your mind resolutely closed against every undesirable, destructive, depressing thought. Rise to the majesty of your personal power. There is a great place for you which you should claim by the sovereign right of your innate worth and ability. Remember there is no altitude too high for your aim and aspiration. The great producers of the world have invariably been men of great vision, and **greatness always looks upward.** As you daily develop increased power you will be the better ready for increased service. True greatness is express in love, reverence, honor, and nobility. Obey the best impulses within you seeking expression. Resolve to act promptly and energetically. **Golden opportunities are now yours.**

Your Own Will Come to You

AUGUST FOUR

LIFT your eyes occasionally from your immediate work and take a long-range view of God's beautiful and inspiring creation. Look away into the depths of the distant sky, and let your spirit find wing in the infinite. Give your mind freedom to wander where it may in the immensity of space surrounding you. This mental excursion **will bring you spiritual refreshment** and many helpful ideas, so that you will return again to your regular duties with exaltation and new courage. A flight of fancy is a desirable relief to concentrated effort. Never become so deeply absorbed in your work as to lose sympathetic touch with the world around you. Be earnest, be strong, be true, and **your own will come to you.**

Be Clean in Mind and Body

AUGUST FIVE

THE consciousness that you are clean in mind and body will enhance your feeling of self-respect. Bathe the entire surface of your body every day. Use water of a temperature to suit your needs. Use it regularly. Keep the pores of your body open by thorough, daily cleansing. Use pure castile soap and warm water. Finish with cold water, and rub your body briskly with the palms of your hands. Self-massage is a beneficial exercise for imparting vigor. **Proper care of the body is vital to happiness.** The consciousness of being clean will increase your confidence. It is your duty to be physically and spiritually pure. **Health and goodness are inseparable.** A clean mind and a clean body are essential to good work and a good life.

The Remedy for Discouragement

AUGUST SIX

THREE is great value in power of concentration, yet you should be careful not to apply yourself too exclusively and continuously to one kind of occupation. Unless you have interests outside of your routine work, your mind and life will become narrowed, and later on you may find yourself in a rut from which it will be difficult to extricate yourself. Paradoxical as it seems, it is the busy man, not the indolent one, who has the most time and inclination for outside varied interests. **Occasional change from your regular work** will enable you to return to it with refreshed mind and body. Often the best remedy for worry, irritation, weariness, and discouragement is **simply a change of occupation.**

Keep Your Mind Flexible

AUGUST SEVEN

TO learn to bend with the storm and let it pass safely over your head may require long study and application, but it is worth while. To bend readily is as difficult as to acknowledge frankly when you are in the wrong. Flexibility means to hold not too rigidly to your own opinions, but to give others a chance to express their views. A flexible disposition **keeps the mind healthy and receptive**, wins friends, placates enemies, and saves one from many of the shocks and jars of daily life. Do not fret yourself unduly if your friend fails to meet his obligations to you promptly. Do not quickly condemn another because he does you an injustice. Waste no time in anger or in tears because you have been misunderstood or maligned. **Cultivate flexibility.**

Give Simply and Intelligently

AUGUST EIGHT

BE grateful for the joy of life. Be glad for the privilege of work.

Be thankful for the opportunity to give and serve. Good work is the great character-builder, the sweetener of life, the maker of destiny. Let the spirit of your work be right, and whether your task be great or small you will then have the satisfaction of knowing it is worth while. Let each day witness to your generous giving, with no expectation of return. **Give simply and intelligently.** Do not wait for great occasions on which to render special service, but remember that small giving may be true and helpful giving. Considering that God has given so much to you, **you can not possibly give too much to others.** You can practise all the great virtues in small as well as in large things.

Put Your Best Ideas Into Use

AUGUST NINE

CALM expression of opinion is more convincing than angry argument. Your rights end where your neighbor's begin. It is well always to do your biggest half-day's work in the morning. Smile in the face of adversity and you will surely conquer. **One good idea put into execution** is better than a thousand schemes locked up in the brain. If you are careless in little things you will probably be careless in big things. It is better to be in doubt than in debt. If you would be considered clever, be silent and let your friends talk. Where there are high motives and growing interests, there can be no dark and dreary days. Spend a few minutes frequently in quiet meditation. **Deliberate, but don't procrastinate.**

Keep Your Mind Receptive

AUGUST TEN

WHEN your mind is receptive, all the world teaches you. Wherever you are situated, there is wisdom ready to disclose herself to you. The knowledge you desire most earnestly is the knowledge you will likely receive. When you read the best books, you will have as **the guests of your mind** the best thoughts of the best men. You choose the kind and quality of thought in your daily life by means of desire and your mental attitude toward the world around you. The master thinkers and doers of all time are ready to serve you at your bidding. There is a feast of reason at which you can sit at will. It is simply marvelous how much has been prepared for **the nourishment of your mind and soul**, which you can have for the taking.

Stepping-Stones to Better Things

AUGUST ELEVEN

THE truly valiant man recognizes no such thing as failure. He regards mistakes, misfortunes, and misjudgments as practical lessons in wisdom and personal discipline. Tho he does not accomplish the particular object in view, he thinks of it, not as failure, but as a means to a higher purpose. The most successful men have used seeming failures **as stepping-stones to better things.** It is not failure but lack of earnest and continued effort which causes so many men to fall behind in life's race. Men who seriously and diligently try without succeeding, are deserving of greater praise than those who succeed without trying. It is well to remember that right effort, combined with industry and earnestness, **will ultimately bring sure reward.**

Live Up to a High Standard

AUGUST TWELVE

YOU resolve to live up to a high standard of personal conduct. You resolve to be kind, dignified, confident, and worthy. But at the close of the day you are conscious of not having fulfilled the terms of your resolution. Upon careful examination you find that you have omitted the special act of kindness, have been timid, possibly undignified, have talked much of self, and have done little to elevate yourself in the esteem of your fellow men. Hence the importance of **regular daily self-examination** to discover your special needs and shortcomings. To live up to a high standard requires **persistent effort and vigilance**. When you make a new resolution, fortify it with a still greater resolve to fulfil it. **Only fulfilled resolutions are valuable.**

Let Diligence Speed Your Progress

AUGUST THIRTEEN

NEVER give way to inertia, weakness, or depression. **Rouse yourself**, stand up squarely and erect, take several deep breaths, then apply yourself diligently to some useful work. There is a prolific waste of personal force because of uncertainty and indefiniteness. When you know your destination, you can better choose the most direct route. **Make definite, positive, discriminating choices**, then go forward with confidence in results. Thinking, planning, and aspiring should be followed by definite, earnest, vigorous effort. Set yourself a great task to-day and let the night bear witness that it has been accomplished. Give all the time necessary in which properly to consider a plan, but once the decision is made **let diligence speed your footsteps.**

Listen Every Day to God

AUGUST FOURTEEN

IT is an inspiring thought to know that God is always present and therefore always available. Dwell intently upon this sublime fact until it becomes clear and real to your consciousness, and you will experience a sense of augmented confidence and power. Affirm to yourself, over and over again, that God is real, present, **immediately and always accessible to you**, and that you can depend upon him with confident assurance at any moment of the day. It is only reasonable that the power which made you can sustain you. It does sustain you. **Listen much to God** and He will instruct you and show you the way in which to go. In the degree of your meekness and obedience he will guide you toward **light, truth, and perfection**.

Eliminate Discord from Your Life

AUGUST FIFTEEN

THINGS are great or small, important or trifling, by comparison.

Most of your past worries proved insignificant or imaginary when measured with the great facts of life. If you once form the habit of **selecting and dwelling upon important subjects only**, you will have neither time nor inclination for the petty worries which beset so many lives. Anxiety, irritation, despair, fear and the like, are mental, and therefore must be destroyed mentally. As you realize the folly of these habits, you will more diligently strive to **eliminate them from your life**. They are not only worthless, but a serious handicap in the race for success. **Think constructively**, and doubtful and discordant elements will fall away from inanition.

Larger Possibilities for You

AUGUST SIXTEEN

GREATNESS of life is largely the product of definite purpose and lofty ambition. You must aim to do some one great thing with all your power if you are to stand on the heights of achievement. When you have made definite choice of a worthy life purpose, there will come to you **a wonderful sense of increased power**, and many influences will set to work for the sole purpose seemingly of helping on your progress. The consciousness at the close of each day that you have made real and substantial advancement toward a great purpose will increase your courage, and **larger possibilities will be constantly revealed to you**. And in this spirit you will surely learn that all really worth-while work must be in harmony with God, and that worthy work always has divine approbation.

Read for Knowledge and Culture

AUGUST SEVENTEEN

BE **selective** in your reading of daily news. You do not want a constant mental picture of the world's crime, disaster, and distress. Direct your attention to the beautiful, encouraging, and ennobling. Read editorials that are constructive, informing, and inspiring. **Read for useful knowledge and mental culture.** Do not read anything simply because you have to read something. Better sit in quiet communion with your own thoughts, with your eyes closed, than to gorge your mind with evil, calamity, tragedy, and human depravity. There are great projects, vital problems, new discoveries, and world questions which make interesting and profitable reading. **Be selective in your choice of subjects.**

Resolve to Do Great Things

AUGUST EIGHTEEN

RESOLVED that I will be an intelligent optimist, and will look for the best in everyone and everything. **Resolved** that I will daily develop the habit of constructive thinking. **Resolved** that I will maintain a high standard of personal conduct at all times. **Resolved** that I will cultivate courtesy, appreciation, deliberateness, integrity, and sincerity in my daily life. **Resolved** that I will always speak well of other people, and if I know nothing good I will keep silent. **Resolved** that I will frequently examine my character and conduct with a view to further self-improvement. **Resolved** that I will daily conduct my thought so as to accomplish the best results from my abilities and opportunities, and thus direct my life to great and worthy purpose.

Cultivate a Liberal Viewpoint

AUGUST NINETEEN

THREE are many hundreds of thousands of **different opinions and temperaments** in the world, hence you must not be surprised if the world is often in disagreement with you. It is not desirable that all men should think precisely alike, since it is sometimes the very conflict of opposing ideas that most clearly brings the truth into view. When you recognize the necessarily wide diversity of opinion, **you will not be too insistent** in your wish to have others think as you do, but you will see the desirability of each person thinking out things for himself, and presenting his own views in his own way. Thus **all may contribute something** which may help to a final solution of a subject and a clearer apprehension of the truth.

Guard the Realm of Your Thought

AUGUST TWENTY

NEW habits make new horizons. Silently and imperceptibly you are forming habits which will ultimately determine the degree of your happiness and success. **Closely guard the quality of your thoughts**, that they may lead to right habits and thence to right living. Recognize and use such supreme qualities as courage, faith, humility, loyalty, temperance, and integrity. Let these be an active force in your daily work. **Use your mental power in large ways for large ends.** Simplicity, peace, poise, confidence, and happiness are products of a well-ordered life. The most vital work you have to do is within the realm of your mind, since thought is the primary cause of everything you plan, attempt, and achieve.

Be Prudent in Forming Habits

AUGUST TWENTY-ONE

BE true to your best self, to your highest ideals and aspirations. It is not what you assert but what you think that determines your real place in the world. Have the courage to pursue your innate high ideals, and presently men will come to your way of thinking. **Truth is a power unto itself.** This infallible power is yours to command and use, and in precisely the degree that you do use it will you be strong, confident, and noble. As you daily develop and accumulate reserves of mental and spiritual power, you will be the better ready for the responsibilities, emergencies, and obligations of life. Above all else, **be prudent in forming your personal habits,** since multiplied habits make character, and character makes destiny.

Consecrate Yourself to Work

AUGUST TWENTY-TWO

WHEN your mental household is in good order, outward circumstances will be powerless to enslave or discourage you. Your present environment affords you ample opportunity for developing patience, concentration, and power. The way you meet to-day's tests and trials, to-day's problems and responsibilities, is an unmistakable indication of what you would do under more favorable conditions. Cheerful and conscientious fulfilment of present duties is the only certain way to **promotion and enlarged personal power**. The qualities and abilities essential to supreme undertakings are developed first in small things. **Consecrate yourself wholly** to your immediate work and duty, and the way will rapidly open to larger responsibilities.

Put a Seal Upon Your Lips

AUGUST TWENTY-THREE

TALKATIVENESS is a pernicious habit. The talkative person falls into many mistakes and misunderstandings, which a little judicious silence would obviate. Talkativeness exposes a speaker to the danger of blundering, exaggeration, and offensiveness. It is a form of selfishness, tending to monopolize other people's time, and to tax their patience. The remedy for talkativeness is to **put a strict seal upon one's lips**, coupled with a firm resolution to cultivate a listening and receptive attitude of mind. Eagerness expressing itself in talkativeness is a lack of self-control. The habit of talking too much is a common failing, and a prolific cause of error and disagreement. There should be **right balance between speech and silence.**

Make Your Progress Sure

AUGUST TWENTY-FOUR

DEVOTE your time chiefly to essential things. Make common sense your constant guide. Cultivate the friendship of helpful, progressive, worthy people. Utilize the little spare moments, usually wasted, to improve your mind. Develop clearness of judgment, dignity, seriousness, and a sense of the profundity of life. Try to make everything contribute to your **physical, mental, and spiritual progress.** Rid yourself of every retarding thought, every undesirable acquaintance, habit, or other influence. Make this day count in a significant way in advancing your highest and best interests. Be eager to receive and apply helpful suggestions from any source. **Seek the guidance of God in morning and evening prayer.**

Daily Read Only the Best Books

AUGUST TWENTY-FIVE

THE systematic reading of good books confers many valuable benefits. It affords useful occupation. It develops concentration, reflection, and other mental faculties. It is an antidote for loneliness and discouragement. It promotes serious-mindedness. It gives inward peace and strength. It imparts the pleasures of surprise, familiarity, sympathy, appreciation, expansion, and revelation. It inculcates the elements of true greatness. A taste for literature is **one of the greatest joys of life.** You can cultivate it if you have it not. Select a great essayist and steep yourself in his thoughts until you have caught his spirit and purpose. Keep a great book at your ready hand to read at odd moments. **Be a conscientious reader of good books.**

Study Words as Vital Things

AUGUST TWENTY-SIX

WORD-STUDY is thought-study in symbol. As you ponder a series of well-chosen words, there will follow in your mind a train of beautiful and inspiring ideas. Words and thoughts are interactive and reciprocal. You can not study one without the other. As you dwell upon great and lofty words, corresponding thoughts will arise in your mind. **Observe the effect** of expressing aloud a list of such words as honor, faith, rectitude, constancy, purity, integrity, conscientiousness, chivalry, liberality, loftiness, heroism, magnanimity, sublimity, altruism, and nobility. Helpful ideas will at once spring to your mind, and you will have an intensified desire to do **something fine and enduring**. Words, like thoughts, are vital things.

Grow Daily in Simplicity

AUGUST TWENTY-SEVEN

KEEP your life simple and sincere. Cultivate the graces of goodness and gentleness. Simplicity is the best and truest kind of greatness. The simple life is strong, useful, and productive. It combines confidence with lofty purpose. Nature is simple in all her ways. The greatest things in life,—beauty, love, truth, nobility, and righteousness— are simple in character. Begin each day with **a sincere desire to be strong and simple.** Make simplicity the keynote of your aims and achievements. Beware pride, selfishness, and inordinate ambition. Liberality and serenity of mind come largely from a sincere desire to be simple. As you grow in simplicity, **your life will become full and beautiful,** and you will be a constant inspiration to your fellow men.

The Present Day Is Yours

AUGUST TWENTY-EIGHT

THREE are many fine things which you mean to do some day, under what you think will be more favorable circumstances. But the only time that is surely yours is the present, hence this is the time to speak the word of appreciation and sympathy, to do the generous deed, to forgive the fault of a thoughtless friend, to sacrifice self a little more for others. To-day is the day in which to express **your noblest qualities of mind and heart**, to do at least one worthy thing which you have long postponed, and to use your God-given abilities for the enrichment of some less fortunate fellow traveler. To-day you can make your life **big, broad, significant, and worth while.** The present is yours to do with it as you will.

Live Up to a High Standard

AUGUST TWENTY-NINE

KEEP your head up, shoulders back, chest high, and spine straight. Be alert, cheerful, all-alive. **Fill your mind with happy, helpful, hopeful thoughts**, so that these attractive qualities will be unconsciously express in your face, voice, and speech. Cultivate the society of congenial people, and surround yourself with pleasant objects. Make every day definitely and distinctly contribute to your advancement. Welcome to your mental household **everything that is fine and beautiful**. Turn resolutely away from the unlovely and undesirable. Take your definite stand toward the world and compel others to ascend to your plane. Having chosen a high standard, live up to it strictly and conscientiously. **Never sacrifice principle for power.**

Justify Your Spiritual Birthright

AUGUST THIRTY

EVERY noble thought is stamped with immortality. Every good desire is a promise of what can be. Every high aspiration is an intimation of possible achievement. Let the controlling motive of your life be to do the will of God and to serve Him in sincerity and truth. Then there will be revealed to you, gradually and surely, **a great and holy purpose** for which you have been equipped. As the light of true spiritual knowledge illuminates your mind, the darkness of doubt will disappear, and you will become conscious of new and wonderful power. The source of true happiness is not to possess but to serve. Be resolute in your desire for truth and righteousness, and thus **justify your spiritual birthright.**

The Sky Gives Perpetual Pleasure

AUGUST THIRTY-ONE

THE sky offers constant opportunities for spiritual enrichment. A clear blue dome suggests thoughts of purity and perfection. The fleecy clouds, moving with matchless grace and gentleness, remind us of the transient and unsubstantial. The noontide of golden sunlight tells of God's fulness of love. Evening twilight gradually enfolds the earth in its soft shades, soothing the spirit and invoking silence. Then comes night, and the star-studded sky rains down its countless lights upon all mankind alike. The study of the sky, with its wonderful panorama of color and beauty, exalts the mind and satisfies the spirit. All day long the miracle is there for contemplation, and at night the eternal wonder is renewed, bringing peace and contentment.

Go Directly to God for Your Needs

SEPTEMBER ONE

YOUR life is constantly subject to the law of cause and effect. What you think and do to-day determine largely what you will be to-morrow. Confidence in an abundance of material possessions, of **health, happiness, and success**, tends to make these things concrete in your life. As you think from day to day so will your life be. **Keep your mind receptive to God's thoughts**, and they will flow into your consciousness with fulness and illumination. The eternal mind of God is constantly available to you. **Go directly to God for your supply of good**, and it will meet all your needs. It is your inestimable privilege to use God's infinite ideas which He gives to you in exact proportion that you are willing to receive them.

Cheerful Work Is a Mental Tonic

SEPTEMBER TWO

DO the duty of each moment to the best of your ability, and be confident about ultimate results. Cheerful work is a mental and physical tonic. There is inestimable advantage in approaching a difficult task with faith and expectation. The spirit in which you do your daily work largely determines the quality of the results. Make yourself equal to every situation by **vigorous and enthusiastic application of your best powers.** As you master small things you pave the way to larger achievements. Whatever you do, do it well, since good work is its own reward. Find out your supreme talent and put it to work at a supreme task. **Launch yourself upon a noble enterprise** which shall ultimately round out your life into worthy success.

The Truth Shall Make You Free

SEPTEMBER THREE

LOVE the truth. Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding. The judgment of God is according to truth. His truth shall be thy shield and buckler. The truth of the Lord endureth forever. **Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.** The Lord giveth thee wisdom; out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding will attain unto wise counsels. When wisdom entereth into thy heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul, discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee. Stand, therefore, **having your loins girt about with truth,** and having on the breastplate of righteousness.

Cultivate Purity of Mind

SEPTEMBER FOUR

MAKE your life harmonious by thinking only harmonious thoughts. Resolutely shut your mental door against all contrary ideas. Keep your mind inviolate. Make your life beautiful by looking only at beautiful things. The world about you is wonderfully attractive, and you can deliberately choose what subjects shall engage your attention. Make your life pure by cultivating purity of heart. **To the pure all things are pure.** Moreover, purity of mind builds bodily health. Keep your life simple by conforming it to simple tastes, desires, and habits. Simplicity is a safeguard against many of life's greatest disappointments. **Keep your life righteous by studying God's truth every day,** and by implicit obedience to your own conscience.

A Suggestion for Daily Prayer

SEPTEMBER FIVE

PRAY thus: Heavenly Father, I thank thee for the privilege of prayer. **I thank thee for the revelation of thy truth** by which I am enabled to escape from all error in the degree in which I am willing to receive and apply thy truth. **I thank thee for thy love** which has always sustained me and will always sustain me in the proportion that I trust thee. **I thank thee for life and opportunity** which thou hast given to me that I may serve thee. I want to know thy will, and to consecrate myself to good work. I want my life to fit in with thy great plans. **Open my heart fully to thy love and law.** Bless me in every thought, word, and act, and may thy Kingdom come speedily to the hearts of all men. **In Christ's name.** Amen.

Cultivate Poise and Self-Control

SEPTEMBER SIX

LEARN to relax. Avoid all muscle strain. As you relax surrender yourself completely to gravitation. When you sit, let the chair hold you. When you travel, let the vehicle carry you. When you retire, let the bed bear your entire weight. Rest and recuperation come through work done in repose. **Check all misdirected energy and waste mental force.** Right work energizes; strain incapacitates. Cultivate the important habit of doing one thing at a time with quiet deliberateness. Always allow yourself sufficient margin of time in which to do your work well. Frequently examine your working methods to discover and eliminate unnecessary tension. **Aim at poise, repose, and self-control.** The relaxed worker accomplishes most.

Build Well and Permanently

SEPTEMBER SEVEN

IT is remarkable what can be accomplished with ordinary abilities when right desire is coupled with determination and diligence. So-called drudgery and seeming disappointment are often forms of discipline leading ultimately to large success. Formidable difficulties will vanish before a courageous and indomitable spirit. Many of life's greatest victories have been due to inexhaustible **patience, resolution, and industry**, rather than to extraordinary talent. Daily self-discipline, and self-culture are essential to a highly progressive life. You are shaping your destiny by the quality and direction of your daily thought habits. You are building well and permanently **if you are taking instruction direct from God.**

Your Personality Proclaims You

SEPTEMBER EIGHT

YOU attract to yourself the things you most fervently desire. Your home environment is an externalized expression of your mind. Your outward appearance is a testimony of your personal taste and judgment. **Your face reveals the evidence of your daily thought habits.** The tones of your voice reflect your disposition and qualities of heart. The words you use tell of the kind of books you feed your mind upon. Your choice of friends, amusements, hobbies, and pastimes, indicates your power of discrimination. Whether you know it or not, your personality is constantly expressing itself to the discerning world about you. Take heed, therefore, and **look well to the development of the finer forces within,** that they may speak eloquently of you.

Your Influence Upon Others

SEPTEMBER NINE

WHAT you are is quite as important as what you do.

You can not always be actively useful, but you can render constant service by your personal example. Daily and hourly you are influencing the lives of those about you, and frequently you are doing greater and more enduring service because of your intrinsic character and personality than you would do by admonition, suggestion, and preaching. It is imperative to greatness of manhood that you **cultivate right intention as well as right conduct.** Be assured that when you sincerely intend to be strong, gentle, pure, and good these qualities will naturally manifest themselves in your outward personality. **Greatness and goodness** are fundamentally of the mind and heart.

The Infinite Source of Truth

SEPTEMBER TEN

CAREFULLY observe the ill-effects of ignorance, fear, and superstition, upon the lives of many people around you, and you will see the folly of allowing these things to limit your own life. Think deeply of the enslaving power of erroneous and misdirected thought, and there will rise within you a determination to be an earnest seeker of the truth. Persistently hold in view the wish to know the truth, and it will gradually be made manifest to you. Seek and you will find. It is the law that desire must precede fulfilment. Daily, earnestly, insistently, study the truth, that it may keep you free from ignorance, fear, superstition, and everything unlike God. You must ultimately go to the Infinite Mind as the source of all truth.

Earn Your Rightful Place

SEPTEMBER ELEVEN

YOU are largely what you deserve to be. To secure your rightful place in the world you must earn it through developed ability and hard work. Honor and fortune come by right attraction. Men who have attained things worth having in the world have worked while others idled, have persevered when others gave up in despair, have practised early in life the valuable habits of **self-denial, industry, and singleness of purpose.** As a result they enjoyed in later life the ease, comfort, and success so often erroneously attributed to good luck. There is no royal road to great achievement and distinction. **To be great you must use great means.** Life's biggest prizes are awarded to the resolute, valiant, and indomitable.

Learn from Every One You Meet

SEPTEMBER TWELVE

EDUCATION is not mere book-learning, but **the culture of mind and heart.** Education is knowing the most useful things, and doing them. Education is the harmonious development of all the faculties, and the bringing into view every virtue and perfection. Your education does not end at school, but continues through life. You are forever a student. **You can learn from everyone you meet.** Books, friends, nature, meditation, and travel are vital means to knowledge, discipline, and education. What you know, makes you what you are. The riches of literature, science, art, philosophy, history, and religion, are yours for the taking. Education is free, and **the development of personal character is its crowning work.**

Be Ready for All Emergencies

SEPTEMBER THIRTEEN

THE **best planned life** has its daily problems to solve. A spirit of patience and sacrifice is necessary to meet the recurring duties and difficulties which beset the daily path. You have your obligations to friends and society, when often you would choose to be alone. Perhaps bodily fatigue assails you before a task is completed, yet **you must persevere to the end.** Untimely interruptions, distracting sounds, or intruding influences may severely tax your temper, but your duty is clear and you must bear all with equanimity. So that while it is right to plan for a life of uninterrupted harmony and happiness, you should so **develop the qualities of patience and sacrifice** as to be ready for all possible emergencies.

Plain Living and High Thinking

SEPTEMBER FOURTEEN

GENUINE simplicity of life does not mean lack of aim, ambition, effort, and enthusiasm. It means the foregoing of certain elaborate comforts, luxuries, and useless things which many short-sighted people think are essential to happiness. It learns to do the right and desirable thing spontaneously. True simplicity contents itself with **the fine, beautiful, substantial things of life.** It prefers to work quietly and unostentatiously, with no desire for inordinate riches, social prominence, or the applause of the multitude. Simplicity squanders no time over trifles, baubles, and follies. Simplicity concerns itself particularly with **plain living, high thinking, and useful service.**

How to Render True Service

SEPTEMBER FIFTEEN

PLAY your part in the warfare against evil, ignorance, and greed, by eliminating these factors from your personal life. Public opinion is the aggregate of individual opinion. What you think, what you say, how you act, in your private capacity, is having its due effect upon the common welfare. You influence the world for good as you practise **simplicity, kindness, nobility, integrity, and generosity** in your daily intercourse with men. You render true service, and hasten the brotherhood of man, whenever you discountenance and discourage sensationalism, costly luxuries, undue excitement, and the feverish quest for money. **Simplicity and sincerity are divine qualities**, leading to fineness and beauty of life.

You Can Achieve a Great Purpose

SEPTEMBER SIXTEEN

SUCCESS really means worth-while achievement. It means undertaking a distinctive work and completing it. In the ordinary sense it means a high degree of worldly prosperity. The money aspect of success should have due consideration, but no more. Money is necessary, useful, essential, but it is only one element in true success. In the highest sense, success implies that **you have actually attained some great purpose**; that you have made judicious use of your thought, time, and abilities; that you have engaged in a worthy enterprise and accomplished it; that you have developed and rightly used your personal powers. This is success in the truest and best sense, and **it is worthy of your highest endeavors.**

Be Alert to Your Opportunities

SEPTEMBER SEVENTEEN

DO not delude yourself with the belief that you would do better with larger opportunities while now neglecting smaller ones. The qualities of **initiative, diligence, and concentration** are quite as essential in small as in large tasks. In doing small things well you are disciplining and preparing yourself for the larger opportunities to come. One of the most fallacious ideas is to think you would do better work and make greater effort under other circumstances, while at the same time you are shirking present duties. **Be alert to the opportunities now at your ready hand.** Apply yourself with earnestness and intelligence to the work immediately before you. Make the most of to-day's chances, and thus fit yourself for larger responsibilities.

Cultivate the Power of Patience

SEPTEMBER EIGHTEEN

BE patient in small as well as in large matters. Be patient with people whose ideas and opinions differ from yours. Be patient when things do not terminate precisely as you wish. Be patient toward those with whom you are in familiar daily contact. **Be patient at all times and under all circumstances.** Patience manifests itself in a uniform evenness of temper. It enables you to listen attentively and receptively to others, even tho they interrupt and contradict you. Patience combines self-control with generosity, so that it bears easily with the defects, infirmities, and injustices of others. Patience is an essential characteristic of all great and enduring accomplishment. **Patience is a power as well as a virtue.**

Make Right Use of Your Powers

SEPTEMBER NINETEEN

THE crowning gift of your success is the power it confers upon you to help others. However easy or difficult you have found the road to achievement, having reached the goal you are in a position to point others the way. So you should give generously of your experience, counsel, and even your money where it is desirable. The test of the value of your success is **the use you make of it.** If it leads you to be selfish, indifferent, worldly, or egotistical, then it is neither worthy nor desirable. It is said few men can survive prosperity, but there are many inspiring examples of successful men who have used their success not for selfish satisfaction, but for the betterment of their fellow men. These are **the men who deserve success.**

Do Everything for the Best

SEPTEMBER TWENTY

YOU can gain valuable instruction from observing the mistakes of the world about you. There is widespread self-assertion, envy, resentment, narrowness, pride, prejudice, and self-will. These are destructive elements, and always produce unsatisfactory results. Hence you will do well to **take special means to keep such as these out of your own character.** As you develop yourself along lofty lines of thought and conduct, you will live above the common misunderstandings, dislikes, and discords of the world. You will not be impatient to justify yourself in the eyes of others, but rather **let your work and life speak for you.** You will not be in haste to rebuke faults and shortcomings in others, but **with charity and forbearance** interpret everything for the best.

Keep in Harmony with God's Law

SEPTEMBER TWENTY-ONE

THE quest of happiness is a natural and worthy ambition. It is erroneous, however, to think of it as depending upon multiplied possessions, selfish indulgence, or unrestricted pleasures. In all true happiness there is a large element of self-denial, restraint, temperance, and simplicity. Prerequisites to great happiness are a clear conscience, a pure heart, and an aspiring soul. **Happiness is in reality being in harmony with God's law.** If you would be happy you must aim to live well, be grateful for your privileges, blessings, and opportunities, and regard happiness as synonymous with practical virtue. It is still true that the virtuous are wise, the wise are good, and the good are happy. **Happiness is God-made;** unhappiness is man-made.

Diligently Develop Your Abilities

SEPTEMBER TWENTY-TWO

CAREFULLY scrutinize the lives of successful men, and you will observe that there has invariably been earnest and intelligent preparation for the success which followed. Knowledge, efficiency, concentration, thoroughness, and similar acquisitions require long study and practise. The only powers you can bring into use at a critical time are those which you have been developing, consciously or unconsciously, in advance of their being needed. **Success is not accidental but logical**, the practical result of properly developed and applied abilities. The hour or more you devote daily to diligent study, quiet meditation, and intelligent preparation, will play a vital part in determining **the degree of your success** when the supreme opportunity presents itself.

The Loveliness of Autumn Days

SEPTEMBER TWENTY-THREE

GOLD and crimson autumn with her lap-filled treasures! Ripened days of departed summer. Sweet and smiling season telling of accomplished tasks and victories won. Days of maturity and mellowness. The brilliant colors of summer have given place to more somber tints. It is the time of softening lights, lengthening shades, variegated woods, lovely landscapes, and tranquil skies. Earth, sky, and sea are transformed into new beauty, **all nature joins in a conspiracy** of rest, peace, and contentment, and at the close of the day the sun goes down in royal splendor of purple and gold. Queenly autumn, in her many-colored robe, **speaks eloquently of life**, opportunity, growth, maturity, and transition.

Be Master of the Situation

SEPTEMBER TWENTY-FOUR

IF you observe yourself frowning, let a pleasant thought smooth out your brow; if you discover yourself talking in a high key, deliberately lower the pitch of your voice; if you find your hands clenched, open them and let them drop a dead weight at your sides; if you feel prompted to say something unkind, try the opposite plan of saying something pleasant and note the result. **To lose your temper is a sign of weakness.** It never satisfies and is always harmful. Once you realize the folly and disadvantage of bad temper under any circumstances, you will take all possible means to safeguard yourself against it. Slow to speak and slow to wrath is a good rule for daily guidance. **To be master of the situation** you must first be master of yourself.

Gladness Is Akin to Goodness

SEPTEMBER TWENTY-FIVE

OPTIMISM is contagious. Cheerfulness promotes health and prolongs life. The good-natured man is a constant benefactor. There is a sunshine of mind that defies and destroys doubt, disappointment, and discouragement. Good humor is a tonic for the mind and body. Laughter is medicine for the soul. The intelligent optimist diffuses hope, courage, and confidence. **Gladness is akin to goodness.** The world needs all the help you can give by way of cheerful, optimistic, inspiring thought and personal example. Avail yourself of every opportunity to say a kind word, give an assuring smile, or extend practical help that will make some one hopeful and happy. Intelligent optimism is **one of the greatest constructive powers** for inspiring men to great and noble purpose.

Form the Habit of Economy

SEPTEMBER TWENTY-SIX

YOU most appreciate the value of money when you need it most. So-called "good things," often turn out to be the "worst investments." Save something regularly, however small, from your income. **Every large fortune has its beginning in small savings.** The saving habit is a sure step to success and independence. The danger in a charge account is that you may over-buy. Prompt payment of obligations wins both self-respect and a good name. There is something substantial about a man who has a bank account bearing interest. He has a feeling of security which must be experienced to be understood. Saving does not necessarily mean discomfort, miserliness, or selfishness, but is a means to comfort, peace of mind, and prosperity. **Cultivate the habit of intelligent saving.**

Have Faith in Your Future

SEPTEMBER TWENTY-SEVEN

BE done with the past, save where it serves to inspire you to greater and nobler effort. Be done with regrets over vanished opportunities, seeming failures, and bitter disappointments, except in so far as they warn and safeguard you against their repetition. Be done with the "might have been," and think of the "shall be." In all development, physical or mental, there are progressive stages, and what seemed to you failures, obstacles, and disappointments, were probably disguised opportunities for your ultimate good and advantage. Let your motto be to look ever ahead, **expectant of great things yet to come.** Trust God that no good is ever lost or withheld. Direct your best impulses and inspirations to worthy work, with the assurance that **all will be well with you.**

Be Master of Your Own Mind

SEPTEMBER TWENTY-EIGHT

EVERY thought you think has an influence upon your life, great or small. All the thoughts you think are of two classes: Constructive thoughts which build your powers toward useful ends, or destructive thoughts which deplete your resources. The thinking of most men is indefinite, haphazard, and negative. They are frequently controlled by environment, accidental circumstances, aimless newspaper reading, and other influences which tempt their thought away from constructive lines. You can **deliberately choose the kind of thought** you intend should govern your daily life. You can close the door of your mind against every undesirable, negative, useless thought. You can be **master of your own mind** in the degree that you really want to be.

Be Loyal to the Will of God

SEPTEMBER TWENTY-NINE

HOEVER long you may experiment independently, you will at length realize that **you must harmonize your own will with the will of God.** There is no other way to eternal truth and happiness. It is exceedingly difficult for some men to conform strictly to God's laws, tho they know that His ways are necessarily best. Human perversity insists upon trying its own ways first, and then when it ignobly fails, turns to God and His divinely ordered laws as the only means to salvation and contentment. **To conform to God's laws** is an indication of strength and intelligence. True power and freedom come not through defiance of divine laws, but by willing obedience to them. **Be loyal at heart to the will of God** and you can never go astray.

Seek the Truth at All Costs

SEPTEMBER THIRTY

BE diligent in your search for the truth. Hold tenaciously to the truth. The more you appreciate the value of truth the more vigilantly will you guard it once you possess it. Give principal attention to fundamental truth. Many problems which at first seem perplexing and difficult, are easily solved when carefully analyzed and traced to their source. Truth is not usually complex, but simple. The more truth you acquire, **the greater will be your capacity to grasp more and greater truth.** Study proofs rather than statements, essentials rather than incidentals. Apply yourself systematically and diligently to any problem, and the solution will be forthcoming. **The supreme quest of mankind is eternal truth.**

Divine Mind Is Always Present

OCTOBER ONE

THE realization that Divine Mind is always present and is ready to cooperate with you, will stimulate in you new faith, power, and purpose. As you avail yourself of this great spiritual power, and use it in your daily activities, there will open to you unlimited possibilities of endeavor and attainment. To-day is the day for you to **be renewed by the transforming of your mind**, to make a new appraisement of your character and life. The more you launch your thought upon a high spiritual plane, the more swiftly will you progress toward the ideal life. What you habitually think, **you gradually become**. Seek constantly to make more of yourself and your opportunities. Think, meditate, reflect, and then act with resolution.

Hints for Public Speaking

OCTOBER TWO

IN your public speaking, don't hesitate, apologize, declaim, shout, fidget, clear your throat, or speak rapidly. Don't be personal, sarcastic, funny, or violent. Don't speak in a high key, pace up and down, put your hands on your hips, or address the ceiling. Don't speak through closed teeth, fumble with your clothes, over-gesticulate, or **wander from your subject.** Don't attitudinize, praise yourself, tell a long story, or rise on your toes. Don't emphasize everything, sway your body, stand like a statue, or antagonize your audience. Don't overlook **the practical purpose of your speaking.** Don't do any of those things which you are quick to criticize in others. **And don't forget to sit down when you have finished.**

Poise Confers Personal Power

OCTOBER THREE

POISE is power under control.

Poise stores up energy and holds it in reserve for special use. Poise keeps you calm and deliberate under varied circumstances. Poise does not mean weakness, vacuity, listlessness, nor indifference. Poise is strength, self-control, and reserve. Poise in its highest form suggests self-confidence, independence, and mastership. Violence and vociferation eventually capitulate to poise. **The man of poise rules.** Work done in poise is best because it is thorough, painstaking, and intelligent. Poise exercises a great influence over other men. It suggests immense stores of power in reserve. Poise is power properly controlled and directed. **Poise conserves waste of vital energy,** and gives balance to all the powers.

Serve God in Your Daily Life

OCTOBER FOUR

THE inexplicable thing of life is that so many intelligent men deliberately and consciously barter the spiritual for the material, the eternal for the temporal. The days of material man are as grass, as a flower of the field he flourisheth, the wind passeth over it and it is gone; yet many men continue to concentrate all their powers and energies upon material riches, to the exclusion of the spiritual. You are distinctly admonished to **apply your heart unto divine wisdom**, to have faith in God, and to do all to His glory. This is your supreme duty and privilege, to **serve God with all your mind and heart**, to love your fellow man, to render Christly service whenever possible, and to **submit yourself wholly to the divine will**.

Do Well Your Appointed Work To-day

OCTOBER FIVE

YOU can make your life a really great and productive one, but it will require intelligent effort, rigid discipline, and a high and worthy aim. All the distinguished men of the world have been earnest and prodigious workers, looking for quality of results rather than for largeness of reward. Life without aim, aspiration, work, and achievement would be a monotonous treadmill. Indolence and idleness breed discontent and carelessness. **To be happy you must work**, and the greatest reward for your work is the consciousness that it has been well done. The opportunities for useful work are abundant on all sides, and if you have the will the way will open wide to you. **Do your appointed work to-day and do it well.**

Hold Yourself Erect at All Times

OCTOBER SIX

DON'T slouch. Don't slump. Don't sag. Don't droop. Sit straight, stand straight, walk straight, think straight, talk straight, act straight. **Hold yourself erect and dignified.** Keep your chest full and strong. Breathe deeply. Remind yourself many times during the day to expand your chest and keep it high. Occasionally stand up, clasp your hands behind the back, bringing them well up between the shoulder blades, then take a full, deep breath, expanding the chest to its capacity, at the same time straightening the arms while keeping the hands clasped. This is a splendid exercise for developing erect posture. Correct carriage is essential to **a strong and forceful personality.** Frequently check any tendency to droop. Stand erect.

The Solution for Your Problems

OCTOBER SEVEN

WHEN you are in right relationship to God, all else will adjust itself correctly and harmoniously. The precise counsel is to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you. That is to say, when you sincerely desire divine truth, and seek it with all your heart, it will answer all your questions, solve your problems, and satisfy your desires. When your life is in strict conformity to the divine plan, **you will want only what God wants you to have**, therefore you can not possibly be disappointed. God is love, hence He wants you to have the wonderful things He has created for you, all of which are for your present good and ultimate progress into His Kingdom.

Seek Daily to Improve Yourself

OCTOBER EIGHT

BE not like those who remain **mediocre** all their lives rather than acknowledge their faults and shortcomings. Be quick to recognize your own defects and to take prompt measures to remedy them. Your best development depends upon your willingness and readiness to see your own limitations, and to **plan intelligently for better personal means and methods.** If you are conscious of a fault in yourself, do not rest content until you have eradicated it. If you feel there is some quality or characteristic which you should develop more highly, give your best efforts to that purpose. It is your sacred duty to **make the most of the powers** that have been conferred upon you, and to develop yourself constantly toward a still higher standard.

Look to God for Guidance

OCTOBER NINE

THE demands of the spiritual life are simple, but implicit. To be true to your high calling, you must have a heart of humility and gratitude, a spirit of obedience and submission to divine authority, an honest principle of mind which causes you to look to **God for guidance and approval**, and a sincere desire to live a holy and devout life. Anything less than this high standard of thought and conduct will keep you from your rightful place in the divine arrangement. Stand, therefore, with your loins girt about with truth, having on the breastplate of righteousness, taking the shield of faith, and the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God. Then will it be said of you: **Well done, thou good and faithful servant.**

Know the Purpose of Your Life

OCTOBER TEN

CULTIVATE a philosophy of your own. Study the meaning and purpose of life. Try to get clear ideas upon fundamental subjects. Dwell upon the concept of God, his nature, will, and personality. Meditate upon law and its marvelous power in the conduct of the world. Give serious thought to such themes as divine love, the life and mission of Christ, the freedom of the will, the character and use of conscience, the doctrine of cause and effect, and the immortality of the soul. Earnest study of subjects of this kind tends to enlarge the mind, broaden the vision, and inspire the heart. Moreover, these subjects vitally concern your daily life, and the better you understand them the better you will be able to **conform your life to the Divine purpose.**

The Sublime Story of the Sea

OCTOBER ELEVEN

THE sea is a sublime illustration of man's life. Smooth, quiet, serene, it suggests tranquil and pleasant sailing. But storms come, and wind and tempest threaten to destroy everything within their grasp. Giant waves rise to awful heights, lightning flashes, and the great conflict of material forces strikes terror to the stoutest heart. Then follows calm, the sea stretches out again in all its gentle beauty and tranquillity, and **the voyager looks hopefully toward the desired haven.** You are now traveling over the sea of life. Some days will be smooth, others stormy, but if you are intelligently equipped like the far-sighted mariner, you can be confident of **a safe voyage and a friendly harbor.**

Constantly Keep to the Right

OCTOBER TWELVE

WHEN you walk along the street, keep to the right. When you ascend or descend a stairway, keep to the right. When you are in doubt, keep to the right. When you know a course is wrong, keep to the right. When temptation confronts you, keep to the right. When misfortune or prosperity comes to you, keep to the right. **When men fail you**, keep to the right. When you feel discouraged, keep to the right. When the world misunderstands you, keep to the right. **When everything seems to go dead wrong**, keep to the right. When you are perplexed and ready to give up, keep to the right. When you think the worst has come, keep to the right. **Think right, act right, do right, and all will be right with you.**

The High Purpose of Ambition

OCTOBER THIRTEEN

THE supreme object of life is not satisfied desire, realized ambition, acquisition of personal power, accumulation of riches, or indolent ease, freedom, and contentment. Life is activity, planning, dreaming, aspiring, doing, serving, pressing on from one attainment to still greater heights. **It is right and worthy for you** to plan for a time when you can have respite from business or other regular occupation. Such leisure is not for idleness, however, but for reading, writing, traveling, public speaking, or other useful form of activity. A fully realized ambition, with no hope nor desire for anything greater, would mean disintegration and death. If you would be happy, **keep your daily life filled with useful and interesting work.**

The Value of Definite Purpose

OCTOBER FOURTEEN

SET before yourself a great and definite life purpose. Hidden away in your inmost soul is a transcendent ideal capable of realization. What you need is not more capacity or greater opportunity, but increased resolution and concentration. Nothing will give you so much pleasure as the consciousness of making **daily progress toward a great life purpose.** As you realize your steady growth in moral and mental strength, you will experience a new and wonderful desire to be something and do something worth while in the world. There is no greater fallacy than to think you will surely do at some future time the better things you are capable of doing now but neglect to do. Good intentions long deferred lose their vitality. **Arise to a realization of your rightful possessions.**

The Lessons of Experience

OCTOBER FIFTEEN

EXPERIENCE should bring restraint and repose. When you have a sense of life's values, you will not indulge in hurry, anxiety, restlessness, or fear. Matured judgment will make you realize that the best results come from **easy, confident, deliberate effort**. The best work is done in poise. Efficiency brings ease, certainty, and self-assurance. Combined experience and efficiency will enable you to achieve results without waste of time or energy. In all departments of human activity, the man of matured judgment and self-control is likely to be master of the situation. The special reward of **discipline and diligence** is that they give an intelligent view of life's values, and show you how to get the best results without undue strain.

A Big Place for You in the World

OCTOBER SIXTEEN

THREE is a big place for you in the world. The measure of your ultimate success will be the measure of your faith in yourself and the realization that you possess inexhaustible personal resources. **This is the day of big things.** The insistent demand is for men of initiative, self-confidence, resourcefulness, and efficiency. Modern business is touching the secret springs of men's powers, and galvanizing into actual use many new ideas and personal forces. Reconstruction is going on apace, and greater efficiency is demanded than ever before. Great unseen forces are at work, powerful, silent, subtle, significant, impelling men to build for larger usefulness. **There is a big place for you in the world,** and you can fill it if you will.

Make Your Life Acceptable to God

OCTOBER SEVENTEEN

LET no influence tempt thee to swerve from the chosen path of truth and righteousness. Give freely of thy time, thought, money, and influence, that others may profit by thy life and example. Keep always before thine eyes the ideals of truth, beauty, and holiness. Be faithful to that which thou knowest to be right. **Take thy stand to-day on the side of God.** It is a commendable thing to do justly toward all men whether they do likewise toward thee or not. Thou art required to do only that which thou hast power to do, therefore plead no excuse of impossibility. Do not longer defer thy good intention to make thy life more acceptable to God. To-day is the time to be doing. **Thy soul is in the making here and now.**

Plan a Course of Great Reading

OCTOBER EIGHTEEN

IN **one hour a day**, for a period of one year, you can read the best that has been said by such writers as Plato, Aristotle, Marcus Aurelius, Epictetus, Plutarch, Shakespeare, Milton, Bacon, Carlyle, Ruskin, Macaulay, Newman, Washington Irving, Lowell, Hawthorne, Emerson, and Thoreau. A carefully planned course of reading of the best authors will, in that comparatively short time, give you **the essentials of a liberal education** in classical and modern thought. Read Addison for clearness, Lamb for simplicity, Bacon and Emerson for epigram, Carlyle for ruggedness, and Ruskin for rhythm and word-painting. Read for knowledge, creative power, satisfaction, and relaxation. A love for great literature is **one of the noblest pleasures of life.**

Resolve to Do Constantly Better

OCTOBER NINETEEN

THE **best medicine** for discontent and discouragement is useful occupation. You are in the world to make something of yourself, to develop your powers and abilities for worthy use, to render substantial service to your fellow men. A well-planned life has no room nor inclination for useless worry and dissatisfaction. Every minute of the day is significant to the earnest and ambitious worker. **Life is rich with opportunity**, and you elect for yourself every morning whether the day will be fruitful of results or not. Plan a program of practical usefulness for each day, fill up the hours with interesting work, **resolve to do constantly better**, and you will find your life steadily expanding into beauty and joyousness.

Cultivate Uniform Self-Control

OCTOBER TWENTY

NEVER send a letter written in anger or resentment. If you write such a letter in order to relieve your pent-up feelings, or to express righteous indignation, put it in your desk for twenty-four hours, and upon deliberate reflection you will destroy it. **Anger in any form is weakness**, but put in writing it remains on record to stand forth an accusing witness against your better self. Resolve never under any circumstances to write an unkind or ill-tempered letter, nor to place on record anything which you could by any possibility live to regret. Make it a rule **never to say anything in anger**. Boys draw in their kites at will, but you can not annul the spoken word. **Think well before you speak.**

Make Your Life Happy and Fruitful

OCTOBER TWENTY-ONE

AS you daily give your mind and heart in homage to God, and acknowledge Him as the guide of your life, you will grow toward spiritual perfection. Tho a task seems slow, you will do well to persevere, since work is the remedy for all the worries and discords which burden men. **Carefully analyze, develop, and apply in your daily life,** the following spiritual qualities: Charity, compassion, courage, devotion, faith, humility, integrity, justice, kindness, love, nobility, patience, piety, purity, repentance, reverence, righteousness, self-control, self-denial, sincerity, sympathy, temperance, tolerance, truthfulness, and unselfishness. Practical use of these qualities **will tend to make your life happy and fruitful.**

Keep Your Mind Filled with Good

OCTOBER TWENTY-TWO

THREE are subtle forms of evil which you should guard yourself against as you would against disease and pestilence. When you feel toward others the first intimation of resentment, envy, contempt, or discontent, annihilate the thought on the instant. Drive it out of your mental world and be done with it. As a great growing personality you should **be eager to discover and destroy any weakness in yourself.** Let thoughts of appreciation, admiration, approval, gratitude, and generosity be uppermost in your mind. The best antidote for evil of any kind is to keep your mind filled with good thoughts and your life occupied with good works. As you ascend in your thought, **you will find yourself in a new world of beauty and usefulness.**

Seek the Best in Everything

OCTOBER TWENTY-THREE

LOOK always for the pleasant, the beautiful, and the constructive. Life is too precious to be frittered away on useless, negative, depressing things. **Cultivate a spirit of appreciation and gratitude.** Seek the best in everything. Be thankful for the privilege of life. Think highly of those about you, and give them the benefit and encouragement of your most generous thoughts. Your mental habits have a vital influence in shaping the character and productiveness of your daily work. Confidence and belief in your own ability to achieve **will speed your progress.** Your mind is a wonderful workshop, in which you plan, systematize, devise, invent, and picture ideas which are subsequently to be exprest in material form.

Difficulties Are for Discipline

OCTOBER TWENTY-FOUR

RELY upon your own resources. You have within yourself all the power necessary for a useful, progressive, successful life. Pluck and perseverance are the handservants of prosperity. **Difficulties are for discipline.** Problems promote progress. Right results and rewards come from labor, not luck. Apply the abilities you now have and your powers will develop in the use. You are now living in a time of most wonderful opportunity, with practically no limit to your possibilities of growth and usefulness. Mighty influences within and without are at your command. **You may now decide for yourself** what you will do with these immense resources, and whether you will take a place among the successful men of your day.

Faith Makes All Things Possible

OCTOBER TWENTY-FIVE

HAVE faith in God. Walk by faith. Faith is counted for righteousness. Faith without works is dead. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Fight the good fight of faith, **lay hold on eternal life.** Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Take the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench the fiery darts of the wicked. **Draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.** If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. Be able at last to say that **you have fought a good fight,** have finished your course, and have kept the faith.

Use To-day's Opportunities To-day

OCTOBER TWENTY-SIX

EVERY day you should plan, initiate, aspire, resolve, systematize, eliminate, concentrate, persevere, work, simplify, accomplish. Life is made up of work and play, ambition and achievement. **You are responsible for the right use of your talents.** The days pass quickly by, and the vital things you wish to do should be done with despatch lest procrastination rob you of your opportunity and rightful reward. **Set your best powers to work to-day,** that you may be able to say at its close that you have made conscious and substantial progress toward a great ideal. There is so much possible to you that you can not delay an hour without personal loss. **Make the best of to-day and its opportunities.**

Cultivate Sunshine of the Mind

OCTOBER TWENTY-SEVEN

GET your enjoyment out of life daily and hourly as you go along. Do not wait for holidays and special occasions on which to give full play to your spirit. Liberate your joy thoughts every day, extract constant happiness from your work, live in the mental sunshine now. Look for the bright things in men and life, interpret everything for the best, be an intelligent optimist. Always see the bright side of the picture. **Cultivate a sunny, hopeful, buoyant attitude of mind.** Seek those things which are cheering, inspiring, exhilarating. Make the most of to-day's opportunities, cast away all thoughts of care, worry, and melancholy, and carry yourself in a mental attitude of genial expectation. **Cultivate sunshine of the mind.**

Golden Opportunities Await You

OCTOBER TWENTY-EIGHT

DARE to originate, initiate, experiment, and explore. Do not hesitate to venture into new fields of investigation and enterprize. The greatest discoveries are yet to be launched, the most eloquent sermons are yet to be preached, the highest achievements are yet to be realized in all departments of human activity. There is a field of **unlimited opportunity open to you**, wherein you can have the widest scope for your abilities. Resolve to-day to choose a definite work, and to **apply your best powers to it with energetic purpose**. Overwork is injurious, and a monotonous task is disheartening, but congenial, useful, productive work is the secret of mental and physical health. Take immediate advantage of your golden opportunities.

A Place of Distinction for You

OCTOBER TWENTY-NINE

YOUR degree of success is not measured by what you say and promise, but by what you attempt and achieve. The world awards its prizes not for excuses and explanations, but for performances and results. Intelligent men read you like an open book, and accurately appraise the kind and quality of your success. The creative, planning, aspiring power within the realm of your mind, coupled with earnest application and industry, is sufficient to place you in the front rank of men. **Life is rich with opportunities and possibilities** for the ambitious and persevering. Successful men in all departments of life have been characteristically hard workers. **There is a place of distinction for you**, if you emulate the example of great men.

Increase Your Faith and Courage

OCTOBER THIRTY

CULTIVATE and encourage within yourself only those thoughts which you know will increase your faith, courage, determination, and other success-making qualities. Think right and you will act right, and just as you think and act right you will be on the way to right results. It is remarkable how a life that is ordinarily dull and unproductive can be changed by means of right thinking into a life of great and useful effort. Wrong results in your life are primarily produced by wrong thinking, and the only way to annihilate wrong thoughts is to put right thoughts in their place. Wherever you are at this moment, there is an incomparably higher place for you. **What you might have been you can be.**

Progress Toward a Great Goal

OCTOBER THIRTY-ONE

DAILY drill and discipline are necessary to the formation of right habits. Every man has undeveloped and unsuspected qualities in himself which can be cultivated in a marvelous way through systematic practise. **Timidity can be replaced by confidence**, indolence by industry, aimlessness by concentration, and limitation by perseverance, all by means of daily exercise. Self-control is a preeminent quality in ideal character and large personal success. What most men need is vigorous training in self-discipline, self-control, self-respect, and self-government. When a man has cultivated these qualities as unconscious habits, he may assume his rightful place in society, and feel assured that he is **daily progressing toward a great goal**.

Always Listen to Good Counsel

NOVEMBER ONE

IT is worth while to listen to advice, since you always have the privilege of rejecting it if it does not meet with your approval. Many persons are not amenable to suggestion, and thereby often lose valuable ideas. To decline advice openly and abruptly is imprudent and ungracious. Much of the advice offered is sincere, emanating from kindness of heart and a desire to render helpful service. It is often beneficial to know the other man's viewpoint, since his opinion may be based upon longer experience and better judgment than yours. Cultivate a mind receptive to the generous counsel of others, give ready ear to all suggestions intended for your advancement and improvement. You can learn something from every one you meet.

Every True Prayer Is Answered

NOVEMBER TWO

TRUE prayer is cooperative. You can not properly ask God to relieve you of responsibility. You ask Him to make the way clear to you, to give you desire and diligence to labor, to endow you with power equal to your duties and obligations. Prayer is not a substitute for personal effort. **Your petition to God must first be right**, followed by earnest and intelligent cooperation on your part. Every right prayer is answered, tho not always in the precise way you desire. The immediate value of prayer is manifest in its regenerating and uplifting influence upon him who prays, but the larger effect of such prayer can be understood only by the omniscient God. **True prayer is receptive, cooperative, confident, and submissive.**

Build Only Desirable Qualities

NOVEMBER THREE

THREE are negative, destructive, undesirable qualities, such as fear, envy, anxiety, resentment, anger, hatred, captiousness, incivility, contentiousness, egotism, irascibility, ingratitudo, disrespect, disloyalty, selfishness, effeminacy, pessimism, cruelty, enmity, indiscretion, suspicion, vulgarity, and grumbling, all of which lead to depression, discord, and dissatisfaction. There are positive, constructive, desirable qualities, such as faith, integrity, goodness, confidence, love, charity, appreciation, self-reliance, enthusiasm, sociability, integrity, sympathy, benevolence, tenderness, toleration, and adaptability, all of which lead to health, harmony, and happiness. You elect yourself to either of these classes of thinkers.

Good Is a Direct Gift from God

NOVEMBER FOUR

GOOD is infinite, hence the supply can never be diminished nor exhausted. Good is inclusive, not exclusive. It is for you and all others. It is impossible to monopolize it. It can not be limited nor impaired. Good is the antidote for worry, fear, discouragement, anger, and temptation. Substitute the thought of good for the thought of evil and the latter will instantly disappear. Good is not something to be used occasionally, but is an available power for your use now and always. **Good is one of the greatest gifts from God**, whereby you can daily grow in love and righteousness. Good is directly from God, since God is good. **As you express good, you express God.** Keep in close touch with God and your life must be good.

Make Wise Choice in Your Books

NOVEMBER FIVE

YOU need have no dull hours if you are a sincere lover of books. Should discouragement, sorrow, or difficulty assail you, it is your privilege to turn to a good book for inspiration, solace, and refreshment. Books are ever available friends, ready to serve you at will. In reading, **the vital thing is what you assimilate.** It is possible to read omnivorously, yet acquire little in real knowledge and culture. Method, judgment, and discipline are as important in the choice and reading of books as in the conduct of a successful business. There is nothing that will precisely take the place of a taste for good literature. To possess half a dozen of the great books of the world is to be **rich in a great and enduring sense.**

Always Start Your Day Right

NOVEMBER SIX

THE manner of beginning the day is often left to chance. Yet it is of the most vital importance in fashioning and influencing the day's work. Let your mind dwell upon distressing newspaper topics, or drift into discouraging thoughts, as a prelude to the new day, and it will affect you adversely. Begin the day with **an inspiring passage from a great author**, or an uplifting thought from your own experience, and you will feel its effects in your subsequent activities. It is the first thoughts of the morning which **give color and character to the day's plans and work**. Be sure, therefore, always to begin the day by dwelling upon some ennobling and encouraging thought. Use it as a keynote to the day's endeavors.

Keep Right on with Your Work

NOVEMBER SEVEN

IT is comparatively easy to smile when blest with friends, fortune and fame. The supreme test of your real qualities, however, is when everything seems to be against you, when friends prove false, plans go wrong, illness overtakes you, and money, position, and those dearest to you are taken away. If a reverse comes to you, look at it philosophically and **keep right on with your work.** If a friend breaks faith with you, forgive the fault, and keep steadily to the main purpose of your life. If a seemingly overwhelming disappointment assails you, rise to your full stature and **keep on courageously with your chosen task.** If everything goes against you, don't give up, don't worry, don't falter, but **smile and keep right on with your work.**

Acknowledge God in All Your Ways

NOVEMBER EIGHT

YOUR sufficiency is of God. Nowhere else is it possible for you to find complete satisfaction and contentment. You are transformed by the renewing of your mind and being filled with the fruits of righteousness. Thus does God work in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. You are not sufficient of yourself, for alone you could do nothing. **You are wholly dependent upon the Divine Father.** Trust, therefore, implicitly in Him, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways, in every thought, aspiration and enterprise, **seek and acknowledge Him**, and He will direct you in the paths of truth, love and righteousness. **God is all**, and as His divine creation you are privileged to participate in His bounty.

Aspire to the Highest Things

NOVEMBER NINE

TAKE your rightful place in the world. Think highly of yourself as having unlimited powers and possibilities. Make yourself worthy of great and honorable success by right thinking, lofty aspiration, and energetic action. Realize the **tremendous unused resources at your ready command**, and make every day contribute in a definite and substantial way to your personal progress. Take courage and inspiration from the example of those successful men who first had to solve difficult problems and surmount obstacles such as sometimes confront you. And always keep this clearly in mind: **To-day is the day to claim your birth-right**, to do your best work, to achieve all of which you are now capable, and to aspire to still higher things.

Do the Most Important Things First

NOVEMBER TEN

WASTE no time on trifles and non-essentials. The daily squandering of a few minutes amounts in a year to many hours. What principally differentiates the highly successful man from others is his discriminating use of time. **Cultivate a proper sense of values** as applied to your daily interests and activities. At the beginning of each day determine what are the essentially useful and valuable things for you to do. Keep them clearly before your mind, and apply your best powers to their accomplishment. When possible **do the most important things first** and try to complete them. Be sure that you are engaged in work worthy of your abilities, and that your best efforts are being steadily directed toward a great ideal.

Plan with Judgment and Foresight

NOVEMBER ELEVEN

MANY persons give up just as victory is coming to them. Many a failure might have been translated into success had there been a little more staying power. **Success is often just around the corner**, and therefore very near tho it can not be seen. In the routine of daily life difficulties must be met, obstacles surmounted, problems solved, and sometimes seeming defeat must be looked bravely in the face. But the man who is confident, heroic, determined, patient, and persevering will ultimately win. **Hard work is the sovereign remedy for a weak will.** Have a definite daily purpose, plan with judgment and foresight, think intelligently, work diligently, and be assured that **something fine and great awaits you further on.**

Be a Sincere Disciple of Truth

NOVEMBER TWELVE

IF your heart is daily growing great and generous, if you are taking increased interest in the common happiness of others, if you are earnestly endeavoring to fill the hours of the day with useful work, if you are frequently making earnest supplication to God for guidance and wisdom, then be assured **you are progressing toward the kingdom.** The way to peace, happiness, and perfection has been implicitly pointed out to you. You are to practise humility, serve and glorify God in your body and in your spirit, run with patience the race that is set before you, and **let your light so shine before men** that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven. **The way is plain to every sincere disciple of truth.**

Set Your Mind Upon a Great Ideal

NOVEMBER THIRTEEN

THIS day offers you new and inspiring opportunities for self-culture and personal progress toward a great ideal. As you train yourself to discriminate between the important and unimportant, the true and the false, the beautiful and the ugly, the eternal and the temporal, you will see **new and wonderful possibilities in the world about you.** Your daily life is made up of desires, choices, discriminations, judgments, and acts. These are under your personal control, so that in reality you are daily making your own destiny. You set before yourself the goal which you wish some day to reach, whether it be high, low, or mediocre. **Nothing can hold you back** if you have set your mind and heart wholly and earnestly upon **a great life purpose.**

Keep the Doors of Your Mind Open

NOVEMBER FOURTEEN

IGNORANCE is a prolific cause of prejudice. What we do not understand, we are inclined to disbelieve. When we want a thing to be true, we formulate all the available reasons for such a conclusion, and deliberately close our minds to opposite views. We are supersensitive about our opinions, and are loath to acknowledge when we are wrong. Opinions once formed take tenacious hold of the mind and are not easily dislodged, however erroneous they may be. The only sure course for the lover of truth is to **throw the doors of his mind wide open** to receive all the possible light upon any subject in question. Breadth and liberality of mind can be secured only in this way. Prejudice always shuts the door, but **truth seeks an open field and no favors.**

Daily Study Inspiring Words

NOVEMBER FIFTEEN

REPEAT aloud and carefully study this list of inspiring words: Achievement, ambition, aspiration, beauty, chivalry, Christ, confidence, conqueror, consecration, courage, determination, devotion, earnestness, efficiency, enthusiasm, eternity, faith, fame, fortitude, friendship, God, greatness, happiness, heaven, heroism, holiness, home, honor, ideal, immortality, invincible, justice, knowledge, liberty, life, love, loyalty, mastery, mercy, mighty, mother, nobility, omnipotent, omniscience, patriotism, peace, perfection, pluck, power, prayer, progress, prosperity, redeemer, rejoicing, revelation, righteousness, salvation, sovereign, success, supreme, sympathy, thanksgiving, triumphant, truth, victory, virtue, will, zeal.

Regard Life as a Great School

NOVEMBER SIXTEEN

THE fine art of living is acquired only through long discipline, observation, and experience. Day by day you have opportunities for correcting in yourself mistakes and misjudgments. As you see where you might have done differently and better, you can record the item in your memory and resolve to profit by the experience. **Life is a great school**, in which you are constantly learning what to do and not to do, how to plan and execute better. The schoolmaster may seem stern and relentless at times, but the discipline and instruction are for your ultimate good. **Study the lessons assigned to you in the wonderful school of life**, and if occasionally a problem seems difficult, be assured a solution awaits you somewhere.

Keep a High Standard Before You

NOVEMBER SEVENTEEN

SET before yourself a high standard of personal dignity, and resolve to adhere to it strictly. There are imprudent people who descend to foolishness, empty joking, undue familiarity, and airy persiflage, usually to their own serious undoing. **Politeness and pleasantness** are not incompatible with dignity. The deplorable habits of contentious arguing, aimless talking, and pretentiousness should be carefully guarded against. In every sphere of life it is the man of dignity who gains the greatest respect and confidence. **Set a high standard for yourself**, and compel other men to come up at least to yours—never descend to theirs. So will you surely **develop a character that will stand the test of time.**

Simplicity Tends to Happiness

NOVEMBER EIGHTEEN

LET simplicity govern your life. The habit of constantly reaching out for something just beyond your grasp will tend to bring discontent rather than happiness. It is destructive to your tranquillity of mind to envy others what you have not, to want too many of the things you see around you, and to dwell overmuch upon your own desires. **Use and enjoy what you now have**, be grateful for present opportunities and blessings, and trust your ability and the future to bring what is good and best for you. True happiness does not depend upon great material possessions, but emanates largely from the mental qualities of contentment, confidence, serenity, and beneficence. **Simplicity of life always tends to happiness.**

Put Your Life in Order To-day

NOVEMBER NINETEEN

THREE is not a single trial, disappointment, worry, sorrow, or grievance in your life which can not be turned to good purpose. Whatever happens to you, whether it appears to be good or ill-fortune, offers a means of personal growth and advancement toward better things. **The discipline of daily life is essential to true culture.** Begin each day with an earnest desire and a firm resolution to obey the divine will. God has provided everything good and beautiful for your highest happiness and welfare. The work still to be done lies with you, in acquainting yourself with divine law and adjusting yourself to it. **There is inconceivable satisfaction in a life consecrated to God and His ways.** Set your life in order to-day.

Let Your Good Habits Serve You

NOVEMBER TWENTY

WORK with enthusiasm. Cultivate laughter and good cheer. Be tolerant of other people's opinions. Constantly apply the Golden Rule. Have a daily play-time. Breathe deeply. Be systematic and orderly in the details of your work. Avoid the desire to set other people right and to reform the entire world. Aim to influence other lives for good by the force of your example. **Have a definite daily program.** Avoid waste movements, such as foot and finger tapping, rocking, and nervous clearing of the throat. Keep your mind constantly filled with wholesome, uplifting, healthful thoughts. Be ready to adapt yourself to the unexpected and uncongenial. **Form good habits** and let them work for you automatically.

Stop Abnormal Haste and Strain

NOVEMBER TWENTY-ONE

LEARN to relax, to let go, to do things quietly and confidently. Cultivate cool-headedness, prudence, deliberateness, and self-control. **Stop abnormal haste and strain.** Take the tension off your body by dropping it from your mind. View things in right perspective. Put a proper estimate upon your work and interests, but do not overestimate their value and importance. Do everything with an inner sense of peace and poise. If you have a fault in your character or method of working, which is retarding your best progress or holding you back from success, resolve at once to examine such fault, to face it fearlessly, and to take special means to eradicate it. **Growth in character depends upon intelligent elimination and correction.**

Cultivate Integrity of Mind

NOVEMBER TWENTY-TWO

THE habit of inflexible integrity confers many personal advantages.

It gives a sense of self-confidence and independence which makes one equal to every circumstance. Truth and duty have been watchwords of the world's greatest men, sustaining them through times of evil and good report. When men know that your word is as good as your bond, and that nothing can swerve you from the chosen path of duty, you have **one of the most valuable of personal assets**. The highest honors are paid to men of sterling principle, and so it will always be since God rules. Integrity is not merely honesty of action, but honesty of intention. It is an innate quality of the mind and heart. It is **one of the greatest elements** in an eminently successful life.

Learn to Live Well and Nobly

NOVEMBER TWENTY-THREE

IT is better to have success late in life than not at all. You must respect yourself if you want others to respect you. It is a valuable habit to keep the little moments filled with big work. The best way to lose your sorrow is to sympathize with others. **There are no dull hours** for the man who looks only on the bright side of life. Keep interested and you will draw interest. Let the encyclopedia carry the load of details so that you can use your mind principally for original thinking. It is a good rule never to borrow from a friend, and better still not to borrow from any one. The troubles you think may come next month will probably be as remote then as they are now. Spend your time **in being what you are**, not in trying to appear what you are not.

Cultivate Fineness of Character

NOVEMBER TWENTY-FOUR

SEEMINGLY small things often have large consequences. A foolish slip of speech, an empty laugh, an ungainly position, an unkind or irrelevant remark, an unpleasant mannerism, or an undignified habit, may unconsciously lower you in the estimation of others. Life is made up largely of trifles. To win and retain the esteem of your fellow men you must be discriminating in your thoughts and actions. **Culture demands constant alertness.** Be on strict guard against undesirable habits which would injure you in the eyes of other men. If you now have any such habits, **take radical and prompt means to correct them.** Begin by making a written list to-day of the things you wish to eradicate from your personal character.

How to Produce the Best Results

NOVEMBER TWENTY-FIVE

THREE are times when it is best for you to keep still, and to let the solution of your problem find its own way into your mind. Great achievement does not depend upon ceaseless activity. The time you give to quiet meditation, to play of the imagination, and to mental planning, may vitally contribute to subsequent accomplishment. It is not always the busiest man who produces the greatest results. Men of wide experience recognize the value of poise, deliberateness, and self-restraint. It is highly beneficial to cultivate the habit of getting things done without haste, anxiety, or impulsiveness. The faculties of your mind best discharge their functions when you are in a state of quiet confidence.

Build Well and Strongly To-day

NOVEMBER TWENTY-SIX

YOU can constantly find in others something good to praise and endorse. Look for the best, the bright, the beautiful all about you. Make your thought constructive and progressive. Build well and strongly day by day, knowing that multiplied right thoughts yield inevitably right results. **The habit of generous and appreciative praise of others** will give you a mental uplift. There is innate satisfaction in looking for the true and noble. Men who are known always to speak well of others are in great favor. Strict adherence to the rule never to speak ill of any one will save you from many bitter experiences and regrets. Your silent estimate of others profoundly affects their lives and yours. **If you would make men praiseworthy, praise them.**

There Is a Large Life for You

NOVEMBER TWENTY-SEVEN

FORCE of will is not sufficient to rid you of such tenacious faults as anger, worry, fear, and discontent. Your remedy is to substitute superior thoughts. **Set before yourself a great life purpose**, regularly substitute harmony for anger, peace for worry, confidence for fear, and agreeableness for discontent. As the expulsive power of right ideas becomes clear to you, desirable habits will easily be made to take the place of old ones. **Open your mind and heart to great and noble thoughts**, and your character will assume new strength and significance. The remedy for your faults is not repression, but substitution. **Live daily upon an exalted mental plane**, and there will come to you constantly increasing opportunities.

The Purpose of Good Resolutions

NOVEMBER TWENTY-EIGHT

IT is comparatively easy to live up to your resolutions until the unexpected happens. Then they are put to a severe test. The strength of your resolutions is possibly strained to the extreme limit, but if they are properly rooted **you will emerge victorious.** The value of a fulfilled resolution is that it encourages you to make still better and stronger resolutions. **The object of making a resolution** is to obviate repetition of a mistake, or to improve your way of doing things. When you fully realize the value of this self-discipline, you will apply it as often as you discover the need for it in your character and daily life. **Resolutions are essential to real progress,** and there can be no great achievement without them.

Render Real Service to Others

NOVEMBER TWENTY-NINE

THE truest service you can render is that which you do quietly and silently, and without expectation of gratitude or reward. Do not wait for special occasions, but serve to-day as opportunity offers. Say the kind and encouraging word. Send a bright and helpful letter to an absent friend. Distribute a few copies of an inspiring book where they will do the most good. **Render a special service to one less fortunate than yourself.** Send some flowers to a sick or discouraged friend. When the spirit is willing, many suggestions will occur to you whereby you can radiate sunshine along the daily pathway of life. Where true gentleness is and desire for service, there you will find **greatness of heart and sincere love of God.**

Plan, Work, Pray, and Serve

NOVEMBER THIRTY

YOUR life should consist chiefly of work, service, cooperation, achievement, and happiness. An intelligently planned world would have no room nor provision for sin, sickness, discord, worry, fear or other ills which affect mankind. These man-made beliefs will be eliminated as rapidly as men conform their lives to God's truth and law. The world steadily advances toward a glorious goal, and you can do your share to speed its progress by keeping your personal life in harmony with the divine plan. Give a portion of your time daily to **prayer, meditation, and spiritual culture.** Read each day the thoughts of some great religious writer, that they may quicken you. **Keep your life strong, true, purposeful, and Godward.**

Grow Daily in Power and Purpose

DECEMBER ONE

THE giant tree tells an inspiring and instructive story of growth, beauty, and usefulness. Straight and dignified, it speaks of sturdiness and serenity in storm and sunshine. Its roots symbolize depth and security. Its graceful leaves and branches are expressions of harmony and beauty. Silent and supreme, it serves as sentinel, shade, and shelter. The growth and unfolding of your life should be as beautiful and progressive as that of the giant tree. **Let your character be firmly rooted in principle**, your mind set constantly toward the light, and your aims and aspirations point heavenward. Then, like the giant tree, **you will steadily grow in beauty and power**, inspiring men about you, and fulfilling the divine purpose.

Study Truth and Righteousness

DECEMBER TWO

LIFE is worth while if you are growing daily in spiritual power and purpose. Life is worth while if you are constantly unfolding in beauty and nobility of character. Life is worth while if you are daily rendering useful service to others. Life is worth while if you are meeting every responsibility, obligation, and circumstance with confidence and unwavering faith. Life is worth while if you are **progressing in truth and righteousness**. Life is worth while if despite the sin, sickness, and sorrow of the world you still keep radiant and strong. Life is transcendently worth while if you are daily developing a deep consciousness of your personal alliance with God, your dependence upon Him, and **the absolute assurance of His guidance and protection**.

Take a Definite Stand To-day

DECEMBER THREE

ASERIOUS responsibility rests upon you not only to use the talents you have, but to multiply them into more talents. **Service to God implies a life of daily progression.** It is your paramount business to grow daily in good works, strong through prayer, wise through reading, and tender through love. The right use of your talents and opportunities is a form of divine service, since right is good, and all good is of God. The abilities you possess are a priceless gift, and your gratitude will best be shown by the way you use these great powers. Take a definite stand to-day for a larger and more useful life, resolve to put your superior talents to the best use, and **be assured that reward and recognition await you.**

The Vital Elements of Good Health

DECEMBER FOUR

GOODY health depends primarily upon right thinking and **consequent right habits of life.** Vigilantly guard your mind against erroneous and destructive thought, as you would guard your house against burglars and assassins. A beneficent power cooperates with you when you engage in right thinking. To be thoroughly well, you must be thoroughly good, and goodness is primarily of the mind and heart. Harmonious thinking strengthens, stimulates, and nourishes the body. Cheerfulness, purity, and righteousness are **vital elements of good health.** The rewards of virtue are certain, immediate, and satisfying. Hold tenaciously to the principles of truth, honor, and justice. Right thinking is **a great creative force** with which to build a healthy and beautiful life.

Grow in Vitality and Power

DECEMBER FIVE

A MAN given up at forty to die, lived to be over a hundred years old, due to the two habits of **temperance and regularity**. He resolved to make these cardinal rules of his life, and so applied them to his eating, sleeping, exercise, and daily activities. Steadily he grew in strength, and at a period when most men think of passing on, he was planning new interests with which to keep his mind occupied. As you develop and apply these habits of temperance and regularity, **you will grow in vitality and power**. Your mind will assume new force and clearness, and you will have **a sense of larger purpose and usefulness in the world**. These rules of temperance and regularity should be applied to all things in order to achieve the highest results.

Realize Your Superior Endowments

DECEMBER SIX

IT is one of your paramount duties to develop in yourself a proper sense of personal worth and dignity. Honorable self-respect is a prerequisite to large influence and success. There is a laudable pride which you will do well to cultivate, in order to occupy your rightful position in the world. As you develop your personal qualities of excellence, honor, self-esteem, and independence, you will more fully live and express **the life for which you were intended.** There is a larger life for you than you are now living, vastly greater purpose than you have yet attained. The more fully you realize your superior personal endowments, the more you will wish to **realize the ideal life which God has made possible to you.**

Develop Power Through Repose

DECEMBER SEVEN

GIVE yourself up occasionally to thorough relaxation. Drop all tension of the arms, legs, and neck. Stop all nervous habits such as tapping with the hands and feet, twitching the mouth or eyes, and constantly moving from one position to another. Take little opportunities to rest your nerves. Occasionally close your eyes when riding on a train or street-car. **Learn to let go.** Develop power through repose. Rest is as necessary as labor. By means of proper rest and relaxation you will return to your work with clearer brain and increased vitality. Save yourself from little tiresome acts by working in poise. Give your powers free play, but do not be over-anxious about results. **Results are in the hands of God.**

Keep Your Mental Plane High

DECEMBER EIGHT

YOUR character will be as high as your plane of consciousness.

Think rightly and greatly, and your life will be an expression of this high standard. It is the spiritual and mental law. You gain something from every good, beautiful, and true thought which you receive into your mind. The full worth, meaning, and possibility of your life can become manifest only through elevation and purification of thought. As you nourish your mind upon supreme ideas and ideals, you will steadily rise in the scale of human values, and there will one day come to you a satisfying realization that **God has indeed given you all things to possess** in the proportion that you have been a willing disciple of His truth.

Be Still and Learn of God

DECEMBER NINE

PLAN a **daily period** of at least ten minutes when you can be alone for quiet, deep, meditative thinking. This is **essential to your best mental growth.** In social intercourse you are constantly drawing upon your mental resources, but it is equally important that you have times of silence and solitude for concentrated, original, profound thinking. Your mind does not yield up its richest treasures while you are busily occupied with varied aims and interests. **It is when you grow still** and there are no distracting influences at work, that your most valuable thoughts disclose themselves. Ascertain what is your best time for clear and original thinking, whether the early morning or late evening, then reserve a regular period for this vital work.

Good Thoughts Yield Good Results

DECEMBER TEN

IT is in your power to make this day one of the best and brightest of days. Begin with an inspiring thought and a deep desire to make the most of your present opportunities. As you sow good thoughts you will reap good results. Open the windows of your mind and let in the sunshine of good cheer, optimism, and generous good will. A right mental attitude will help you and others with whom you come in contact to **live well and happily**. Make this day bright and productive by filling it with ambitious and purposeful work. **Look only for the good** and you will find the good. The mental power which you now possess will grow still greater in the process of right use, and **each day can be better and brighter than ever before.**

Cultivate Personal Poise

DECEMBER ELEVEN

TRUE poise is spiritual in basis. There is an ease of manner which arises from serenity of mind, but this is not the highest kind of poise. Many persons are said to be in poise when they are only relaxed or indifferent. **Poise is an inner property of the soul.** It is power in reserve and repose. It is self-possession born of experience and fine discrimination. Poise of this type is the outcome of personal rectitude and clear-sighted common sense. It is evidence that a man has come to himself and is in the realization and enjoyment of his best powers. Such poise is **worthy of most careful cultivation**, since it implies possession of those sterling qualities which invariably characterize the highly successful man.

Rightly Estimate Your Abilities

DECEMBER TWELVE

SELF-APPROBATION is a subtle foe to progress. Men who flatter and eulogize you most may be rendering you the least service. The natural inclination to excuse to yourself your own errors is a serious hindrance to growth in sound judgment. Men who are fickle, vacillating, and faint-hearted do not win honor and distinction in the great race of life. The race is not to the swift only, but to **the brave, intelligent and efficient**. While it is well for you to have full confidence in your powers and possibilities, deeming nothing within reason too high for your aspiration, you should know how to appraise your personal resources accurately. **A right estimate of your abilities** will contribute materially to your progress toward a useful and successful life.

The Foundation of Success

DECEMBER THIRTEEN

YOUR personal success largely depends upon the degree in which you develop and use the following cardinal qualities: Accuracy, adaptability, alertness, ambition, concentration, confidence, courage, courtesy, decision, determination, diligence, discretion, earnestness, economy, efficiency, enthusiasm, faith, foresight, honesty, independence, industry, initiative, integrity, judgment, loyalty, nobility, optimism, orderliness, patience, persistence, precision, promptitude, prudence, punctuality, purpose, reliability, resourcefulness, self-control, sincerity, stamina, sympathy, tact, temperance, tenacity, thoroughness, thrift, truthfulness, vigilance, vigor, zeal. **Develop and use these qualities daily.**

Make Use of Divine Truth

DECEMBER FOURTEEN

TO every problem there is already a solution, whether you know it or not. To every sum in mathematics there is already a correct answer, whether the mathematician has found it or not. Correct answers to all mathematical problems have always existed, and therefore while you may discover the right answers you can not possibly create them. It is obvious from this that your principal work in the pursuit of any branch of knowledge is not so much to create, as to **recognize, realize, and appropriate.** It should be encouraging to you to know that if you are now confronted by any kind of problem, personal or otherwise, there is a way to solve it, and **you will find the way** as rapidly and as surely as you apply to it the principles of divine truth.

Gentleness Is True Power

DECEMBER FIFTEEN

KINDNESS wins where coercion fails. Sympathy smoothes out difficulties and disarms antagonism. The supreme qualities of kindness and gentleness can be rapidly cultivated by close attention to little things. They grow through use. It is erroneous to think of gentleness as necessarily weak and timid. In the truest sense **gentleness is power and poise.** It is positive virtue reaching out to understand, help, and encourage. It is eloquent evidence of nobility of soul. Sympathy and gentleness are safeguards against selfishness. Three valuable personal qualities are kindness, gentleness, and sympathy. The time you devote to cultivating these virtues will give breadth to your character, and help to **shape your life toward noble ends.**

Diligently Work and You Will Win

DECEMBER SIXTEEN

THE men who have accomplished great things in the world have invariably been prodigious workers. You will do well to emulate their example. Whatever your present responsibilities are, apply yourself to them with diligence. Purpose and endurance are the handmaids of successful enterprise. Many men have the means but not the application for great achievement. The one certain way to win distinction in any line of endeavor is through intelligent and incessant labor. The records of highly successful men are open to you for your guidance and inspiration. Above all things else they counsel you to **work if you would win.** The price of real attainment is an indomitable will to **persevere under all circumstances.**

Health, Harmony, and Happiness

DECEMBER SEVENTEEN

YOUR mind is a field, a garden, a storehouse, a telegraph station, a clearing house. It will keep you fully occupied to cultivate this field and garden, to store up golden truths in the recesses of your memory, to send out uplifting thoughts to others, and to keep this wonderful mental world of yours in order. **All that is really worth while** in your life is first outlined in your mind. Ideas and ideals, plans and purposes, aims and aspirations, all begin there. Let your mental workshop claim your constant attention. Remember that good thoughts carry the essence of health, harmony, and happiness. All of God's laws are laws of love, truth, and justice. **Let these laws forever rule your mind and life.**

Study Truth for Truth's Sake

DECEMBER EIGHTEEN

THE vital step to the apprehension of truth is to desire it sincerely and earnestly. To make truth wholly yours, you must both understand and practically apply it. You will better appreciate the value and importance of truth when you seriously consider that erroneous thinking is the chief cause of all the sin, disaster, misfortune, sickness, and failure in the world. Truth to be properly grasped must be **studied for truth's sake**. Truth to be of real significance to you must be something more than theory; it must be a vital, personal, demonstrated power in your daily life. There is nothing which will bring to you so much satisfaction and permanent benefit as a profound study of truth. **It transcends all material possessions**, since it is eternal.

You Are What You Are

DECEMBER NINETEEN

YOUR personal appearance is an asset of great importance. The world's first appraisal of you is of your outward personality. What you wear is an expression of what you are. A discriminating mind manifests itself in countless little ways. Your attire, attitude, and manner proclaim you to others. Your appearance announces you before you speak. Realize the vital importance of always appearing at your best. When you so appear it will increase your self-respect, and help to win the good opinion of others. **You are what you are.** No masquerading in assumed manners, no lofty pretentiousness, no mere conforming to social custom will make you more than you are. True worth is of the mind and heart. **Culture and character are intrinsic.**

Apply Your Heart to Wisdom

DECEMBER TWENTY

BEWARE prejudice. It closes the doors to truth and knowledge. It is a subtle foe to mental growth and progress. Prejudice is a prolific cause of harsh and unsound opinions. The best way to clarify your ideas, and to verify your judgments, is to bring them into conflict with other minds. It is a good thing to **believe you can learn something from every one you meet.** It is more profitable for you to look for faults in your own judgment than in that of others. It is of prime importance that you put your own mind in order before undertaking to set other people aright. Wisdom is the power of true and just discernment. Solomon says that man is happy who finds it. Therefore **apply your heart diligently to wisdom.**

The Power and Majesty of Winter

DECEMBER TWENTY-ONE

BEAUTIFUL winter! King of seasons, majestic ruler of the year. Stern, strong, sublime, you summon men to action and achievement. **You stir their blood and bid them work and win.** Over the wide earth you cast your mantle of white, converting it into a place of fairy enchantment. Your silver snows, sparkling and radiant in the sunlight, have taken the place of summer-scented flowers. It is the time of happy firesides, intimate friendships, long evenings, and significant silences—dream-time as well as work-time. Glorious winter!—imparting to life richness and vitality. **Beautiful, invigorating, inspiring winter!**—symbol of purity, grandeur, and power.

The Best Is Available to You

DECEMBER TWENTY-TWO

THE best things are not remote and inaccessible. They are near you, within your grasp, and ever available. The best times are not in the dim future, but here and now in the living present. The best opportunities are not reserved in some distant place, but are **within your reach right where you are to-day**. Heaven is not tucked away in some indefinite place in the sky, but is within you. All that is good and fine and noble in life is now available to you. You will no longer suffer from self-limitation, doubt, and discouragement, once you have fully realized how much has been provided for you. To-day earnestly resolve to claim these priceless gifts and opportunities and to **use them for your largest unfoldment**.

Cultivate a Helpful Hobby

DECEMBER TWENTY-THREE

HOEVER absorbing and pleasurable your regular occupation may be, you should also have a hobby to which you can turn for change and recuperation. The brain and body weary of repeated effort. The man of one idea eventually pays a penalty disproportionate to the results. **There are many delightful hobbies**, such as gardening, music, languages, handicraft, sketching, nature studies, and writing, which will give **new purpose and vitality to your daily work.** The happiest man is he who, as the years advance, finds continued interest in a variety of subjects, and who has a particular hobby for change and relaxation. You are fortunate if you are engaged in congenial work, but you are doubly so if you have an interesting hobby.

As You Climb the Heights

DECEMBER TWENTY-FOUR

THREE is inexpressible joy in the realization of having completely conquered a secret weakness, successfully solved a formidable problem, or faithfully discharged a disagreeable duty. To many life is like climbing a long, steep, difficult hill; but as the years pass, those who courageously press on and up find themselves at last upon the mountain top of achievement, where they look out upon a scene of indescribable beauty, and, as they turn to look back and down at the road they have traversed, perhaps rough and difficult in many places, they realize that it has all been worth-while, and that the final reward of work well done has fully compensated them for the effort. **Life is a beautiful and inspiring journey** for the courageous traveler.

The Season and Spirit of Service

DECEMBER TWENTY-FIVE

THE Christmas spirit and sense of service should not be only for one day in the year, but a perennial and perpetual expression of the love in your heart. If the spiritual good cheer of Christmas Day were generally manifested throughout the year it would transform mankind. **Love is still the greatest thing in the world**, and the world grows better in proportion that love increases. Do not wait for others to practise the golden rule, but diligently apply it in your own daily life. Like the stars that are beautiful because of what they are, and not because of what they do, so you can make your life a beneficent influence to others by developing **a continual spirit of Christmas within your mind and heart.**

The Values and Rewards of Life

DECEMBER TWENTY-SIX

MELLOWNESS, contentment, and repose should mark the advancing years of a well-planned life. It is characteristic of youth to be alert, expectant, and energetic, but as one advances along the pathway of life, experience and knowledge should bring a sense of inner **peace, power, and confidence**. The lessons of life are intended to confer the ability to secure right results without undue haste. In later years when there comes a deep realization of life's values and rewards, one should listen and meditate much, because only through quietness is it possible to come into intimate touch with the spiritual. Thus may life be beautifully rounded out into fulness, and one may then wait with confidence for **the sweet benediction of God**.

Advancing Along Life's Pathway

DECEMBER TWENTY-SEVEN

ELDERLY people should never say, "I'm too old," "My day is past," "Once I was young," "If I could only live my life over," "There's no use of trying now," "Only young people are wanted," "I'm tired of living," "It isn't worth the struggle," "I feel I'm in the way," "I should have made more friends," "I'm no use now," "I missed my chance," "I'm ready to go any time," "I married too soon," "I was too generous," "I'm through with the world," "The end is not far off," "I'll welcome death," "I hope I'll go soon," "Anything is good enough for me now," "Be sure not to bury me alive." This is wrong and destructive. **Life should graduate gracefully** from ardent youth to superb old age, and from that to later golden years with **God's blessing overhead.**

Refining Influences of Life

DECEMBER TWENTY-EIGHT

CULTURE is that form of education which manifests itself in **refinement of mind, morals, and taste.** One evidence of culture is to have the courage to be what you are. Culture includes not only knowledge, but sympathy and intelligence. **Culture combines simplicity and courtesy.** Culture is the growth of all the graces of love, beauty, truth, and service, and the repression of everything mean or unworthy. Culture expels evil with good, ignorance with knowledge, and falsity with truth. Culture practises the small humanities, abhors uncleanness of every kind, and has **an innate desire to do the right thing.** Culture upholds the refining influence of life, and clears the way for those who would follow toward the light.

Be True to Your Highest Self

DECEMBER TWENTY-NINE

SERVE and trust God. Keep His commandments. Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are His. Fight the good fight of faith. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying. **Keep your heart with all diligence**, for out of it are the issues of life. Be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Responsibility precedes reward. Do your part faithfully, that you may be worthy of the crown of righteousness promised to those who are obedient. **You are the temple of the living God.**

Keep Your Record Clean

DECEMBER THIRTY

YOUR life is like a book. The title-page is your name. The preface is your introduction to the world. The pages are a daily chronicle of your efforts, trials, pleasures, discouragements, ambitions, and achievements. The principle subject of your book may be business, romance, tragedy, comedy, poetry, science, literature, or religion. Day by day **your thoughts and acts are being inscribed** as evidence of your success or failure. What you will record on the remaining pages of your book is of vital importance. Hour by hour the record is being made which must stand for all time. One day the word "Finis" must be written. Let it then be said of your book that it is a record of **noble purpose, generous service, and work well done.**

Make Still Better Plans

DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE

AT the closing of the old year, you can profitably make an inventory of what you have planned, developed, and achieved. Carefully consider the means and methods which you have used for desired ends, and the special instances in which you have succeeded or failed. **As you look in retrospect**, you will doubtless see many places where better judgment, broader charity, and greater prudence could have been used by you with more satisfactory results. So while you think with gratitude and pleasure of the progress you have made and the results achieved, **take a practical lesson** from such personal examination, and **earnestly resolve** to make the new year a better, bigger, brighter one for yourself and for the world in which you live.

INDEX OF SUBJECTS

Index of Subjects

Abilities	February 11
Abundance	September 1
Accomplishment	September 7
Achievement	July 7
Acquisition	February 29
Adaptability	April 7
Admonition	July 28
Advancement	August 29
Advice	November 1
Affirmation	August 14
Age	December 27
Aims	January 3
Alertness	August 13
Alliance	June 10
Ambition	August 16
Amenability	January 16
Anger	October 20
Annoyances	July 20
Appearance	December 19
Application	March 10
Appraisement	October 29
Appreciation	October 23
Appropriation	June 4
Approval	February 24
Aspiration	August 30
Assets	June 13
Assurance	June 19
Attractiveness	September 8
Auto-suggestion	May 17
Autumn	September 23
Availability	December 22
Bathing	August 5
Beauty	June 25
Beginning	January 1
Beliefs	June 9
Birthright	November 9
Books	June 30
Breathing	March 30
Broadmindedness	March 17
Brotherhood	March 22
Capacity	July 26
Carriage	June 28

Index of Subjects

Character	April 19
Characteristics	April 26
Charm	July 3
Cheerfulness	July 11
Choice	November 3
Christmas	December 25
Common Sense	August 24
Composure	November 25
Concentration	February 20
Conditions	January 21
Confidence	March 15
Confusion	May 16
Conscientiousness	March 12
Consecration	December 29
Consequences	November 24
Conservation	July 6
Considerateness	June 24
Constructiveness	May 25
Contentment	November 8
Contrasts	January 7
Conversation	February 27
Convictions	June 2
Cooperation	October 1
Counsel	June 5
Criticism	February 14
Culture	December 28
Decision	January 4
Dedication	February 16
Deeds	March 29
Defects	April 27
Deficiencies	April 25
Definiteness	March 25
Deliberateness	June 6
Delusion	September 17
Dependence	July 13
Depression	May 21
Desires	July 18
Destiny	January 14
Determination	March 13
Development	December 13
Devotion	February 16
Difficulties	May 13

Index of Subjects

Dignity	November 17
Diligence	July 10
Direction	October 12
Discernment	December 20
Discipleship	November 12
Discipline	August 11
Discord	July 2
Discouragement	June 27
Discrimination	December 28
Distinction	April 1
Doing	August 9
Duty	April 13
Earnestness	October 10
Education	September 12
Effects	April 20
Effort	January 26
Elimination	January 22
Eloquence	October 2
Emergencies	July 22
Eminence	August 2
Emulation	April 10
Encouragement	October 30
Endowment	February 2
Endurance	December 16
Energy	January 29
Enjoyment	November 18
Enrichment	March 26
Enterprise	January 12
Enthusiasm	September 2
Essentials	April 21
Exaltation	March 3
Example	July 15
Exclusiveness	April 12
Exercise	May 5
Expectation	March 6
Experience	February 22
Expression	August 26
Failure	April 4
Fairness	July 31
Faith	October 25
Fastidiousness	January 15
Faults	March 28

Index of Subjects

Felicity	September 21
Fidelity	August 21
Fineness	September 15
Flexibility	March 2
Flowers	July 1
Foresight	July 30
Foundations	April 15
Freedom	May 10
Friendship	March 21
Fruitage	December 17
Fulfilment	February 13
Fundamentals	September 30
Generosity	August 1
Geniality	September 25
Genuineness	September 14
Giving	July 16
Gladness	June 26
God	June 15
Godwardness	November 30
Goodness	March 14
Good-will	December 10
Gratitude	August 8
Greatness	April 2
Growth	May 27
Guidance	January 13
Habits	July 4
Handicaps	September 20
Happiness	April 24
Harmony	September 4
Haste	February 21
Health	December 4
Helpfulness	September 19
Heritage	May 14
Hindrances	December 12
Hobbies	December 23
Holiness	October 9
Honesty	March 31
Horizons	August 20
Humility	May 4
Ideals	November 13
Idleness	May 22
Ignorance	September 10

Index of Subjects

Impressions	July 12
Improvement	March 8
Imprudence	May 12
Indecision	May 23
Independence	January 19
Industry	July 9
Influence	April 30
Initiative	May 28
Inspiration	November 15
Integrity	November 22
Intention	September 9
Interests	January 28
Interruptions	February 23
Intimations	January 10
Intuition	May 3
Joyousness	October 27
Judgment	January 18
Kindness	December 15
Knowledge	May 8
Labor	October 19
Life	December 2
Listening	July 14
Literature	August 25
Longing	January 20
Loquacity	August 23
Love	January 5
Loyalty	October 17
Majesty	August 5
Manners	February 4
Mastery	September 24
Mastication	March 4
Maturity	October 15
Mediocrity	October 8
Meditation	April 23
Mellowness	December 26
Mentality	May 26
Mercies	January 25
Merit	September 11
Mind	June 3
Mistakes	June 7
Money	September 26
Motives	June 1

Index of Subjects

Nobility	April 16
Non-resistance	August 7
Obstacles	November 11
Occupation	May 6
Omissions	August 12
Onwardness	November 23
Opinions	August 19
Opportunity	June 17
Opposition	June 29
Optimism	February 1
Order	August 22
Originality	October 28
Overcoming	December 24
Patience	September 18
Peace	February 28
People	July 25
Perfection	October 21
Performance	August 28
Perseverance	April 17
Persistence	July 24
Personality	March 24
Perspective	November 21
Petition	September 5
Plans	April 9
Poise	October 3
Possession	January 31
Possibilities	May 29
Posture	October 6
Power	March 27
Practise	February 8
Praise	November 26
Prayer	November 2
Prejudice	November 14
Preparation	September 22
Principle	May 11
Problems	September 13
Procrastination	June 22
Productiveness	January 2
Progress	July 27
Promise	March 5
Provision	July 21
Prudence	May 1

Index of Subjects

Purpose	October 14
Qualities	June 18
Questions	February 12
Quietness	April 22
Reading	November 5
Realization	October 13
Receptivity	August 10
Reciprocity	January 6
Record	December 30
Refinement	January 23
Reflection	January 11
Reformation	April 18
Regrets	September 27
Reinforcement	March 7
Reiteration	January 8
Relaxation	April 28
Religion	July 23
Repetition	July 5
Repose	September 6
Resistance	February 3
Resolutions	August 18
Resources	May 9
Responsibility	October 26
Rest	December 7
Results	July 29
Retrospect	December 31
Riches	January 24
Righteousness	October 7
Satisfaction	January 27
Schooling	November 26
Scripture	April 8
Sculptors	January 17
Sea, The	October 11
Selectiveness	August 15
Self-confidence	May 7
Self-control	July 8
Self-discipline	April 5
Self-examination	May 24
Self-government	October 31
Self-limitation	February 6
Self-possession	December 11
Self-reliance	October 24

Index of Subjects

Self-surrender	February 25
Serenity	June 14
Service	November 29
Shortcomings	May 15
Silence	June 11
Simplicity	April 29
Sin	May 2
Sincerity	August 27
Sky, The	August 31
Smiling	November 7
Solicitude	April 6
Solitude	January 9
Solutions	December 14
Speech	March 16
Spirituality	October 4
Spring	March 20
Stability	November 28
Standard	November 6
Stillness	April 11
Stocktaking	June 8
Study	October 18
Submission	September 29
Substitution	May 19
Success	September 16
Suggestions	November 20
Summer	June 21
Supply	November 4
Supremacy	December 8
Symbols	February 19
System	May 20
Talents	December 3
Talking	April 3
Taste	August 17
Temperance	December 5
Tests	November 19
Thoroughness	February 9
Thought	November 27
Time	March 19
To-day	February 26
Tolerance	April 14
Tranquillity	July 19
Trees	December 1

Index of Subjects

Trials	July 17
Trifles	May 31
Troubles	February 18
Trust	May 18
Truth	December 18
Unfoldment	December 9
Upbuilding	March 9
Usefulness	October 16
Values	November 10
Variety	August 6
Verbosity	May 30
Vigilance	June 23
Vigor	March 1
Vision	August 4
Vitality	June 20
Walking	February 15
Waste	February 7
Water	June 12
Weakness	October 30
Welfare	February 5
Wholeness	January 30
Will	February 17
Winter	December 21
Wisdom	September 3
Words	March 18
Work	March 11
Worry	June 16
Worth	December 6
Writing	March 23
Zeal	October 5

